

Senior Hamas official dead after Israeli air attack

pg 10



Richie wants baby no. 2

pg 26

Search and rescue called off in B.C.

SEARCH The search for a second snowboarder missing on Mount Seymour has ended after police determined the footprints James William Martin saw on the mountain were his own.

Rescue crews began combing the mountain Wednesday after the 21-year-old snowboarder, who'd been found after three days in the wilderness, said he saw another set of tracks in the snow.

Martin was reported missing Tuesday.

North Vancouver RCMP found his SUV in the Mount Seymour parking lot with his cellphone and wallet inside and promptly called North Shore Search and Rescue.

He's being treated in hospital for frostbite to his hands and feet.

Martin told CBC News if he had to have spent another day on the mountain, he likely would have died.

He said he'd expected to walk out of the wilderness, but each day as night fell, so did his hopes of being found.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO CANADA

Local pg 3

Halifax gets hammered again

Entertainment pg 24



Ledger tops '08 polls

Sports pg 16

Rainmen open PBL in Quebec



Mark Elliot does a cannonball into the frigid water during the 15th annual Herring Cove polar dip yesterday. Twenty-three people braved a blizzard and freezing temperatures to take the New Year's Day plunge.

Chilly start to '09

Revellers jump during blizzard for annual polar bear dip

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

It's a bit baffling to jump into the Atlantic Ocean in January, but throw in a blizzard, and more than a few people will think you're crazy.

And then there's Maria Mulder — she jumped in twice.

The blizzard didn't stop 23 jumpers from taking a polar dip in Herring Cove on New Year's Day. The blowing snow postponed a similar event in Lawrencetown, but polar dip organizers in Herring Cove — with the

"I had the worst year of my life in 2008, and I'm so happy to say I'm starting 2009 off the right way."

Maria Mulder

fire department's OK — gave their jumpers the green light yesterday.

Mulder couldn't get the day off work last year and had to miss the polar dip, so she went twice this year to make up for it.

"I'd have to say it was the coldest jump I've had," she said.

Then she went again. The woman from Bear Cove said she was even more psyched

to go in the second time then the first.

For many jumpers, the polar dip is a way to start the new year revitalized and refreshed.

"I had the worst year of my life in 2008, and I'm so happy to say I'm starting 2009 off the right way," Mulder said. "It probably wasn't good last year because I didn't jump."

The toughest part of the

jump is climbing out of the water and up the wharf's ladder. Mulder said it wasn't too bad this year because a higher tide meant fewer icy rungs to climb.

Plus the snow and cold set the mood, said Brian Blanchard of Herring Cove.

"Personally, I prefer jumping when there's a bit of snow going on because it makes it feel more like a polar bear jump. Last year it was warm and the sun was beating down and it was like jumping in April," he said.

"It's a way to start the new year, and we're all from Atlantic Canada: We don't mind a bit of weather."

2 Canadians shot while vacationing in Mexico

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

A Vancouver man is in critical condition in a Mexican hospital, and his friend is stable, after the two were shot at a strip club and tourist hot spot.

Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed yesterday two Canadians were shot Tuesday in Cabo San Lucas, a resort town at the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula.

A local newspaper, the Tribuna de Los Cabos, reported the victims are 26-year-old Donguyen Ninhtrung from Vancouver and Michel Brenhan Spowe, 28. Metro was not able to confirm that Spowe is also from Vancouver.

The newspaper reported the victims were sitting with another tourist from the United States in a strip club called Mermaids.

Two men walked in, sat down at a nearby table and ordered beers. Moments later one of the men stood up, walked to the Canadians' table and, according to witnesses, pulled a gun and shot the witnesses without saying a word.

A security guard was also shot and injured as dancers and patrons — mostly foreign tourists — all dropped to the floor.

The newspaper went on to say that police have no suspect or motive and are in the process of reviewing surveillance tapes.

Foreign Affairs spokesperson Daniel Barbarie told Metro on Wednesday that Mexican authorities informed Canadian officials of the shooting Tuesday.

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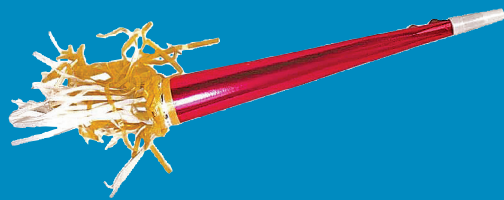
Clear cars off streets for plows

Skip the \$25 ticket: When the snow flies, stow your car in the driveway. Parking is banned all winter from 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. on all HRM streets. It's also banned during the daytime if it's storming so plows can clear the streets.

METRO HALIFAX

3

Local



Levees still happening

Were you hoping to ring in the new year with a levee? You still can. Both the city and the lieutenant-governor's levees were postponed due to the storm. The city's levee will now be held Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at city hall. Lt.-Gov. Mayann Francis has not announced the new date for her event yet.

METRO HALIFAX

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



Gary Joudrey clears the snow from his driveway on Thursday morning. A blizzard brought strong winds and heavy snow to the entire province.

Winter: Thar she blows

Record-breaking New Year's Day snowfall for HRM

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca



As if all the political and financial turmoil weren't enough, 2008 just had to get in one more shot. Thanks to an overnight blizzard, most Nova Scotians welcomed in the new year by waiting for a cab, waiting for an airplane, or just trying to figure out how they'll dig themselves out of their home.

In total, about 30 centimetres of snow fell on Halifax throughout the blizzard. That's a record-breaking amount for New Year's Day in HRM.

It was also windy, with Environment Canada recording gusts up to 88 kilometres per hour. That storm that hit the province before Christmas, but com-

bined with the snow it created whiteout conditions.

Despite the whiteouts, there were no serious accidents on the roads in and around Halifax. Police said the most they saw were a few minor fender-benders.

Nova Scotia basically became a no-fly zone. Flight schedules at Halifax Stanfield International Airport were a sea of red "cancelled" signs as of New Year's Day morning.

But things could have been worse. Because they saw the storm coming, most airlines cancelled their flights the night before. That meant very few people were stranded in the airport.

"Some of these cancellations were posted last night. A few were made this morning. Most people (are) savvy enough to check with their airline first, so they're not spending hours and hours

sitting in an airport," said airport spokesman Peter Spurway.

Cab companies warned the public beforehand that there would be delays in service, and they were right. Even the next morning, dispatcher lines were constantly busy.

The few things that were scheduled for yesterday were mostly cancelled. The lieutenant-governor's New Year's Day levee was put off and will be rescheduled.

Environment Canada spokeswoman Colleen Farrell said there's no sign of another storm coming — yet.

"Not in the foreseeable future. Now, it is wintertime in the Maritimes, so conditions can change," she said.



Video on the Maritime's punishing blizzard at metronews.ca/canada

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



A man walks through the blowing snow near the Halifax Common on Thursday.

Lights out for the new year

POWER Pity the Nova Scotia Power line crews.

After spending Christmas away from their families working on power lines, they couldn't even ring in the new year at home.

The overnight blizzard knocked out power to more than 2,600 people throughout the province as of Thursday morning.

"We had whiteout conditions overnight and early this morning. There was freezing rain in Cape Breton," said NS Power spokeswoman Glennie Langille.

"In these kinds of conditions, sometimes we have trouble moving our crews around. But so far, they've been able to work safely."

The areas most effected include Truro, Goshen, Port Hawkesbury and across Guysborough County. Power crews worked throughout the day, but by 5 p.m. Thursday, 6,173 households still couldn't turn the lights on.

There's no doubt it was a vicious storm, but it didn't cause anywhere near the damage done by the storm a few days before Christmas.

In that one, high winds and falling trees knocked out power to close to 60,000 people at its peak.

Overwhelmed, repair crews took days to get everyone back online. Additional teams from NB Power came over to help with the work.

But still, about 15,000 customers woke up Christmas morning to discover Santa hadn't given them any power. That number was cut to a third by mid-afternoon and by the evening only a few hundred were left.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Maple Leaf CEO Michael McCain's response to listeria being named business story of the year at metronews.ca/canada

Video The brave and the foolish ring in 2009 with the polar bear dip at metronews.ca/canada



Cause of man's death won't be known for months, say police

INVESTIGATION It will be months before police can say for certain what caused the death of a 44-year-old man found in his North

Street apartment Tuesday. Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Jeff Carr said Wednesday investigators are waiting for

a toxicology report, which could take quite some time.

"It's not something that's going to be resolved in the

next few days," Carr said.

The man was involved in a fight outside a Halifax bar two days before his death, but an autopsy de-

termined those injuries didn't kill him.

"There are no other signs of foul play," Carr said.

RACHEL BOOMER/METRO HALIFAX

Muir bowing out of political life

RACHEL BOOMER
rachel.boomer@metronews.ca

Jamie Muir's golf game is about to get a whole lot better.

Muir, 67, one of the most experienced members of Premier Rodney MacDonald's cabinet, announced earlier this week he won't re-offer in the next provincial election.

"I think there's a time for everything, and it's time for me to do something different," Muir, currently minister responsible for Service Nova Scotia and municipal relations, told Metro News in a recent interview.

His wife's already starting up his retirement to-do list.

"One of the things she talked about was cleaning out the basement," Muir laughed.

Muir was elected in 1998, part of John Hamm's third-place Tory caucus. In the 1999 election, the Hamm Tories unexpectedly swept the Russell McLellan Liberals out of office, and Muir became health minister.

It wasn't an easy job. In 1999, paramedics went on strike for 18 hours, and in 2001, the Hamm government introduced Bill 68, designed to prevent nurses and other health-care workers from striking.

Muir has also been edu-



"I think there's a time for everything, and it's time for me to do something different."

Jamie Muir

cation minister. Now, as Service Nova Scotia minister, he wears criticism for the province's gas-price regulation system.

E-mail has drastically changed the way people interact with government during the last decade, he told Metro. When he started, most correspondence was written; today, people send angry e-mails when they're upset, and often expect an instant response.

"The more government does for people, in some ways, the more people expect it to do."

The hardest part of being in government, Muir said, has been having to hold his tongue. But he's enjoyed the chance to help constituents, and he's particularly proud of helping to secure a new hospital for Truro-Bible Hill.

"You have people who come into your office who need help, and sometimes you're able to solve their problem. That feels good."

A provincial election is widely expected this year.



Psychic Kelliena peers into her crystal ball. Kelliena provided Metro with some predictions for 2009.

New leader rising

City psychic makes some predictions

JON TATTIE
for Metro Halifax

Since 2008 went out to the sounds of sputtering economic engines, you can forgive Nova Scotians for being hesitant about starting a brand-new year for 2009. Fear not: A Halifax psychic says good news is in our tarot cards.

"Next year is going to be a lot about balancing," Kelliena says from her nook at the back of Little Mysteries. The fiscal meltdown won't be as bad as we fear, she says, though universities could take a hit to funding in January.

"(2009) is going to be a lot about balancing."

Psychic Kelliena

February shows the Four of Pentacles protecting her money, but it may be a blessing in disguise. "It may be wise for people to save their money," the one-named psychic advises.

In March, the Prince of Pentacles strides onto the scene.

"This could be a new leader," Kelliena says, gazing pensively at the card. She sees our new political prince starting to rise in 2009 and

(look away, Rodney MacDonald) he could be the next premier by 2010.

After a hot and stormy summer, we'll all be breaking out our guitars and crooning lyrical ballads to our beloveds under balconies come the fall.

"The two swans are soulmates," she says of September's card, "there may be romance in the air."

In December, we'll pick up our guitars and lyrical ballads again, this time to honour Barack Obama.

"Nova Scotia's on the map, for some reason," she says, straining to see more. "It's a world leader ... it could be the U.S. president."

Man attacked, robbed by young group

ASSAULT Three men attacked a 24-year-old man as he walked across a covered walkway near Main Street in Dartmouth on Tuesday night. He was hit in the head and pushed to the ground. One of the suspects was armed with a knife and robbed the man, who received minor injuries. The suspects are described as black males between 5-8 and 5-10 and were between 17 and 19 years old. **METRO HALIFAX**

Passenger, driver pepper-sprayed

TRANSIT Just before midnight Saturday, three suspects attempted to pepper spray a passenger on a Metro Transit bus in the Coburg Road and LeMarchant Street area. They got not only the target, but the bus driver, too. Police say they believe the passenger knows the suspects but was intoxicated at the time and not cooperative with the investigation. **METRO HALIFAX**

Man injured while escaping police

ARREST Running from police, an 18-year-old man fell near the Alderney Gate complex in Dartmouth on Sunday night. Officers were talking to a man and woman who were suspected of being intoxicated in a public place at around 7:30 p.m. The man ran from police and jumped over a railing, falling about 20 feet to the pavement below. He was taken to the hospital with serious lower-body injuries. The woman was arrested for being intoxicated in a public place. **METRO HALIFAX**

News in brief

SHOOTING Shots were fired into the door of an apartment building in Halifax last weekend. At around 1:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, two occupants of the apartment heard someone knock at the door of their eighth floor Richmond Street apartment. Multiple rounds were fired through the door but no one was injured. Police said it doesn't appear to be a random act.

DRUGS Police found drugs and arrested two men in Bridgewater last week. They searched two rooms at the Argyle Inn and seized marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Two Bridgewater men aged 44 and 20 are facing trafficking charges. Both men were under conditional-sentence orders and will face additional charges in Shelburne provincial court. **METRO HALIFAX**

PUBLIC MEETINGS

School Review: St. Patrick's-Alexandra

The Halifax Regional School Board is currently conducting a school review of St. Patrick's-Alexandra School, a grade Primary to nine school in Halifax.

In accordance with the *Education Act and Regulations*, an Impact Assessment Report has been prepared looking at potential options regarding the future of the school.

A Study Committee has been formed and responded to the *Impact Assessment Report*.

As part of the process, the school board will hold public meetings to give the public an opportunity to make representations to the Study Committee's response.

The meetings will take place at the following times:

Monday, January 12, 2009, 7 p.m.
St. Patrick's-Alexandra School
2277 Maitland Street, Halifax

(If necessary)

Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 7 p.m.
St. Patrick's-Alexandra School
2277 Maitland Street, Halifax

Members of the public interested in making a representation should contact the Halifax Regional School Board at 464-2000 ext. 2321 or by e-mailing corporatesecretary@hrsb.ns.ca.



A copy of the *Impact Assessment Report* and the Study Committee's response can be found on the board's web site at www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/1030.html or by contacting the board using the information listed above.

A decision on the school review of St. Patrick's-Alexandra School will be made by the school board no later than March 31, 2009.

The board could decide, among other things, to:

- keep the school open;
- consolidate the school, or a part of the school, with another public school; or
- permanently close the school.

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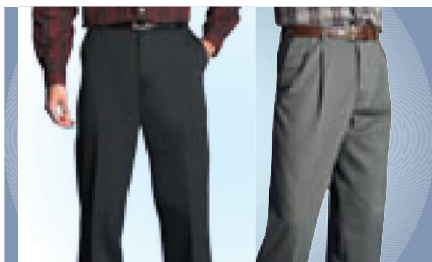
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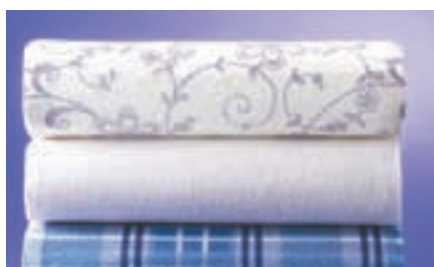
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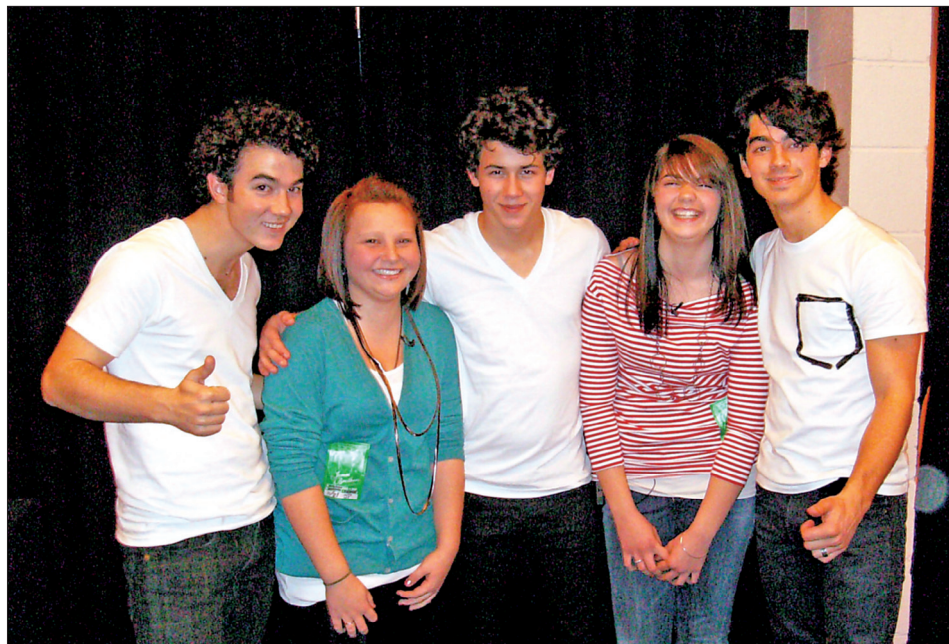
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6 local

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Local teens **Tori Hoadley** and her cousin, **Taylor Brunt**, got to meet singing sensations the **Jonas Brothers** in Las Vegas, courtesy of a MuchMusic contest. From left: **Kevin Jonas**, **Tori Hoadley**, **Nick Jonas**, **Taylor Brunt** and **Joe Jonas**.

OMG! Aren't they dreamy?

Local girls meet Jonas Brothers in Vegas

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

Two Halifax girls got, like, the best Christmas present this year.

Taylor Brunt and her cousin **Tori Hoadley**, both 15, won a MuchMusic contest to meet their idols the **Jonas Brothers** in Las Vegas. It's called My Date With ... **Jonas Brothers** and **Demi Lovato**.

Brunt said she's been a fan of the JoBros since their first album came out.

"Their music I can relate to a lot. Like, the lyrics are what teens go through. And with them, they're really cute."

The three brothers from Wyckoff, N.J. — **Kevin**, 21, **Joe**, 19, and **Nick**, 16, — have been selling out shows around the world. Brunt said the youngest, **Nick**, is her favourite.

"They're just really awe-

some and I was just so glad to meet them."

In late November, Brunt and Hoadley were waiting in a room back stage at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

The **Jonas Brothers** were gearing up for a second sold-out show at the venue.

"When they first came in it was just **Joe** and he's like, 'Hey guys.' I said, 'Tori look behind you,' and she's like, 'What?' and I said, 'Tori just look behind you' and she's like 'Oh my god!'"

The **Jonas Brothers** signed the girls' posters as they were a little lost for words.

"I was like, 'You guys are awesome,' and they were like, 'Thanks, we love you.' I was like, 'I

love you, too.'"

This emotional moment was, of course, caught on tape.

The half-hour special premiered last night and will run several more times.

"We were with them for 10 minutes, but it was the best 10 minutes of my life," Brunt said.

"I'll never forget it."

Not at the same excitement level, but still pretty cool was the experience of meeting actress and singer **Demi Lovato**.

"She is really pretty. Honestly, she's really short," Brunt said.

"She told us lots of stuff like she has to have cheese and deli meats in her dressing room and her idol is **Kelly Clarkson**, and stuff like that."

Prominent Nova Scotians named to Order of Canada

HONOUR Longtime senator and cabinet minister **Allan J. MacEachen** was named to the Order of Canada on Tuesday, along with three other Nova Scotians.

MacEachen, who was first elected to the House of Commons in 1953 under then-Liberal leader **Louis St. Laurent**, served as labour minister under **Lester B. Pearson**.

He went on to hold a list

of heavy-hitting portfolios, including health and welfare, manpower and immigration, external affairs, Privy Council and finance, and was a key advisor to **Pierre Trudeau**.

He ran for the leadership of the Liberal party in 1968, but lost.

Children's author **Joyce Barkhouse** of Bridgewater was made a member of the Order of Canada the same day. Well-known Head of St. Margarets Bay philanthropist **Fred Fountain** joined her, along with oral historian **James Morrison** of Halifax.

Price at the pumps expected to rise

GAS Drivers, get ready to pay more at the pump: Gas prices are expected to

go up today by about three cents per litre.

We've been enjoying some of the lowest gas prices in years, thanks to the economic downturn.

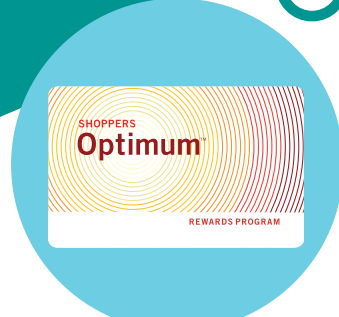
Yesterday, you could buy gas for as low as 69.6 cents per litre at Halifax stations.



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Many Canadian high school students are unaware of the causes of infertility and do not know that sexually transmitted diseases can affect their ability to have children. About 94 per cent of the students did not know that sexually transmitted infections can lead to infertility, according to a report in the journal *Fertility and Sterility*. **REUTERS**

Canada



Insomnia costs billions: Study

Insomnia costs Quebec about \$6.5 billion a year, mostly through lost productivity among those who can't sleep, according to a new study. The figures calculated by researchers from the University of Laval in Quebec City suggest "the economic burden of untreated insomnia is much higher than that of treating insomnia," so there should be more studies of therapies.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

Search for missing B.C. man called off

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada



SNOWBOARDER The search for a second snowboarder missing on Mount Seymour has ended after police determined the footprints James William Martin saw on the mountain were his own.

Rescue crews began combing the mountain on Wednesday evening after the 21-year-old snowboarder, who'd just been found after three days in the wilderness, said he saw another set of tracks in the snow.

Martin, who recently moved to British Columbia from Ontario and works in

Langley, was reported missing on Tuesday.

North Vancouver RCMP found his SUV in the Mount Seymour parking lot with his cellphone and wallet inside and promptly called North Shore Search And Rescue.

Police said he's lucky to be alive, and he's being treated at Vancouver General Hospital for frostbite to his hands and feet.

Martin told CBC News that if he had to have spent another day on the mountain he likely would have died.

He said he'd expected to be able to walk out of the wilderness, but each day as night fell, so did his hopes of being found.

Two dead in B.C. avalanches

FATALITIES Two men are dead after three avalanches in the past 24 hours at British Columbia's popular Whistler Blackcomb resort.

The RCMP confirmed Thursday that a snowboarder from outside B.C.

was killed Thursday in one of two avalanches on Whistler Mountain.

On Wednesday, a Whistler man, 37, was killed in an avalanche on Blackcomb Mountain. His body was found Thursday morning. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

News in brief

STRIKE Federal Labour Minister Rona Ambrose ordered the union representing 2,300 striking Ottawa transit employees to vote on the city's last contract offer.

FIRE Officers with the Ottawa police arson unit, the fire

department and the fire marshal's office are investigating a fire at a Radisson Hotel around 8 a.m. Thursday morning. Investigators say they found evidence inside the hotel that may suggest that the fire was deliberately set.

METRO CANADA

Drugs may entice troops

Report says Afghan drug trade tempting to soliders

There's a "high probability" some Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan — one of the world's biggest sources of illegal drugs — will get involved in the drug trade, a military police report warns.

"Access to illicit drugs in Afghanistan is routine," reads the report obtained by Torstar News Service.

"Easy access to heroin, hashish, cannabis presents a temptation for (Canadian) troops in the form of personal use and in the form of importation for the purpose of trafficking," it reads.

"Easy access to heroin, hashish, cannabis presents a temptation for (Canadian) troops in the form of personal use and in the form of importation for the purpose of trafficking."

Military police report

It notes that using and trafficking drugs are illegal and "contrary to the ethos" of the Canadian Forces, but concedes some of the 2,500 troops serving in the war-torn nation might not be able to resist.

The findings are outlined in a series of military police

documents obtained by Torstar News Service under Access to Information legislation. The documents, requested in November 2007, were released last month.

One report cites a July 2007 search by military police officers, aided by a drug sniffer dog, of a Canadian

convoy returning from Spin Boldak, on the Pakistan border.

The report says the dog "indicated" on one of the armoured vehicles as well as a heavy logistics vehicle that had been loaded on a flatbed trailer.

"The results of the search do not provide sufficient evidence to substantiate any charges. However, the results are indicative that (Canadian) personnel may be involved in the use and traffic of illicit substances," the report said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quebec City New Year's, anniversary celebrations



Fireworks explode during New Year's Eve celebrations in Quebec City on Wednesday. The fireworks also marked the end of celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City.

Three killed in Calgary restaurant

HOMICIDE Three men are dead after a shooting at a southeast Calgary Vietnamese restaurant Thursday afternoon.

All three were eating at the restaurant when at least two gunmen open fire, according to police. Two of the victims were found inside the restaurant and one was outside, in the parking lot. Witnesses said the suspects fled the scene in a silver vehicle.

Police have confirmed that it was a targeted attack but they won't say if the shooting was drug or gang related.

JENNIFER HILLIKER/
FOR METRO CANADA



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Those eager to put 2008 behind them will have to hold their goodbyes for just a moment on New Year's Eve. The world's official timekeepers added a "leap second" to the last day of the year on Wednesday, to help match clocks to the Earth's slowing spin on its axis, which takes place at ever-changing rates affected by tides and other factors. **REUTERS**

Extra second added to 2008 by world timekeepers

World



France vows car-fire crackdown

President Nicolas Sarkozy vowed to crack down on France's car burning after more than 1,100 vehicles went up in flames overnight on New Year's Eve. Sarkozy said he had asked authorities to be "uncompromising" with vehicle arsonists and said those caught burning other people's cars should lose their own licences. Car burnings are regular occurrences in France, where some 36,700 were recorded in the first 11 months of 2008. **REUTERS**

Thai nightclub blaze kills dozens

FIRE A blaze at a Bangkok nightclub killed 61 people and injured more than 200 others as people celebrating the New Year stampeded out of the club.

The cause of the fire was under investigation, with witnesses saying it was caused by fireworks and media reporting it was due to an electrical fault.

Forensic experts were unable to identify at least

30 bodies as they had no identification documents with them, doctors said, adding it would take them at least a week to do so.

Foreigners treated in hospitals included those from Japan, Australia, the Netherlands and France, police said.

Although details were sketchy, witnesses said clubbers were given sparklers shortly before

Injuries

- Among the most critical was a 25-year-old Japanese man who suffered 40 per cent burns on his body and was in an intensive-care unit.

midnight. Fireworks then went off inside the dance area, sparking a conflagration. **REUTERS**

Hamas official killed

Wives, children among dead in Israeli air strike



Palestinians stand on Thursday at the scene of an Israeli air strike on the home of senior Hamas leader Nizar Rayyan in Gaza.

Israel killed a senior Hamas leader in an air attack on his home on Thursday, striking its first deadly blow against the top ranks of the Islamic group in a Gaza offensive that has claimed more than 400 Palestinian lives.

Nizar Rayyan, a cleric widely regarded as one of Hamas's most hardline political leaders, had called for renewed suicide bombings inside Israel.

Medical officials said two of his four wives and seven of his children were also killed in the bombing in Ja-

Casualties

- The deadliest conflict in the Gaza Strip in four decades has killed at least 412 Palestinians and wounded some 1,850.

balya refugee camp.

Late Thursday night, Israeli war planes bombed the camp's mosque. Officials said it was a meeting place and command post for Hamas militants. The large number of secondary explosions after the strike indicated that rockets and

missiles had been stored there.

Hundreds of supporters scrambling over the concrete rubble vowed revenge as bodies, covered in blood and cement dust, were extracted.

Rayyan, 49, was a preacher at a "mosque of martyrs" who mentored suicide bombers.

Hamas Radio said he had ignored advice to leave his house as other Hamas leaders have done in anticipation of assassination attempts by Israeli forces. **REUTERS**

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Bombings kill at least 5 in India

ATTACK At least five people were killed and 26 wounded when suspected separatist militants set off three bombs in India's northeastern Assam state Thursday, police said.

The first bomb was found in a dustbin in a heavily populated residential area, but went off before it could be diffused.

Explosives planted on bicycles near a shopping mall and street market al-

so exploded in the late afternoon, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Police pointed a finger at the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), the major separatist group in the oil- and tea-rich state often blamed for attacks. They said they had identified the suspects after receiving specific intelligence information. **REUTERS**

Castro revolution's 50th anniversary

MILESTONE Cuba celebrated Thursday the 50th anniversary of a 1959 revolution, whose leader Fidel Castro transformed the island into a communist state.

The anniversary comes as the era of Castro, now 82 and in poor health, is winding down and uncertainty hangs over the future of the Cuba he built into an improbable world player. **REUTERS**

News in brief

MADOFF A statue stolen last month from Wall Street financier Bernard Madoff's Florida home has been returned with a note reading "Bernie the Swindler, Lesson: Return stolen property to rightful owners. Signed by The Educators". The statue was untouched, and police say the thieves likely want-

ed to prove a point.

CRIME Danish police on Thursday charged a 27-year-old man of Palestinian origin with the attempted murder of two Israeli youths. A gunman on Wednesday fired several shots at the youths, who worked at a hair salon in the Odense shop-

ping mall, wounding one in the leg and the other in the arm. The attack came on the fifth day of Israeli air strikes against Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip, prompting speculation in Danish media of a link to developments in the Middle East.

REUTERS

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Comment & Views

2008: Can we get a do-over?

OmniVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

It might just be me — never underestimate a columnist's proficiency at subjectivity — but I can't recall the last time the transition from the old year to the new felt so downbeat.

My memories aren't exactly long — I can't speak authoritatively about any New Year during the Great Depression, or the last night of 1939, when a new world war was just getting

under steam, and I've got to assume that they were pretty glum affairs.

The transition from 1963 to 1964, when the assassination of John F. Kennedy was still recent and raw, was probably a somber affair, but it happened just before I was born.

I've lived through Watergate and the OPEC oil crisis, and at least two major recessions after the '70s, though, so I can claim some modest long view on history's recent dark patches.

I was a freelancer during the recession following Black Monday — Oct. 19, 1987 — and lost over half of my clients in the six subsequent months, but I know that the mood in

general was far more festive when 1988 hove into view.

The consensus is pretty dire; a series of interviews with financial giants that has run in the National Post for the last few weeks has been depressing reading. "I think it's tough. I think it's going to get tougher," said Jim Treliving, CEO of Boston Pizza and Dragon's Den star.

"It sounds trite but it's a very complex and very dangerous situation," warned banking analyst

Anthony Boekh.

Asked whether he's seen a worse situation, philanthropist

and Bar-
rick Gold
CEO Peter
Munk

was suc-
cinct:

"No. But then again, I'm only 81. If I was 120, I probably would

have."

It's no wonder, then, that we're acting like we're facing dust bowls and bread lines even when the

worst we've seen is mostly cruel justice — housing foreclosures on people who couldn't afford their homes to begin with, and the collapse of banking institutions who played a risky game badly and lost.

As for the crisis in the auto industry, that's been brewing for years — decades, actually — and there have been Bernie Madoffs at regular intervals since the first man traded his goat for a shiny bauble.

It's half real crisis and half coincidence, and it's rather inevitable that my industry — the media we keep hearing is at an all-time low in public trust — has managed to make it all seem like a financial per-

fect storm about to break over your leaky trawler.

It might be true — I make no claims as an oracle — but it's just as likely that we're being told to panic because nobody wants to look like Pollyanna if the worst comes to pass.

Perhaps we should take advantage of this somber but fortuitous mood and begin the New Year like jilted lovers; skeptical of everyone, whether they're peddling optimism or doom, and especially skeptical of our own judgment, which got us into this mess in the first place.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

An open letter to Rodney MacDonald

UrbanCompass

Paul McLeod

Dear Rodney,

Happy New Year.

I write to you with important news. According to an Acadia study, there are little to no health benefits to all-terrain vehicles.

In other news, dishwashers are not an effective form of birth control and sandwiches don't stop global warming.

I know, it seems a bit silly, right?

Obviously riding an ATV isn't as healthy as, say, walking. But people often use ATVs to do healthy things like camping. What's to study?

But here's the thing. Your government gave \$10,000 to a York University study backed by the ATV lobby that basically argues with the first study.

So, in a province that

still has issues like child poverty, we're spending thousands of dollars and man-hours on something that'll probably make no difference in anyone's life.

This brings me to why I'm writing you, Rodney. Our economy is, to put it lightly, doomed.

You're going to have to cut untold millions from the budget next year. Truly a

least pay a couple bucks for some D250 swag like a T-shirt or side bag.

Multiply that by the millions of D250 bric-a-brac out there, and now we're talking.

It's just a pity you didn't come to me sooner. Like, say, last

a small chance giving away mountains of D250 golf shirts, stress balls and flags won't save our political system.

Luckily, we can gather up the thousands of leftovers and discards and to EBay we go. Unfortunately, there'll be no way to get back the \$40,000 salaries of John Hamm and Russell MacLellan.

But hey, 250 is a nice number to celebrate, even if democracy of 250 years ago was a sham and we didn't get responsible government for another 90 years. Why split hairs?

I've got many more valuable tips, but I'm not giving them all up for free.

I'll help you out for a modest consulting fee. Shall we say \$40,000?

Paul McLeod is a staff reporter at Metro Halifax. He is currently in rehab for being a political junkie. It's going badly.



daunting task. Rodney, friend, buddy, let me help you.

My first piece of advice — EBay.

There are people on that site, this is true, paying more than \$27 for a \$25 gift certificate. They'll at

year when I could have advised you giving up to \$10 million in no-strings-attached funding to a program with an unverifiable goal could be problematic.

It's not that democracy isn't great; it's that there's

Letters

Bring back Canadian Idol or give it to someone else

I am depressed about next summer. I will watch American Idol, but I always look forward to our version.

I love anything Canadian. We need to have this show aired; it gives everyone hope that dreams can come true.

CTV got the hockey song, maybe they should give CBC the show for this year. Come on CTV. Do something positive for this country. Find ways to make it more economical.

CAROLYN SAINCHUK
TORONTO

How can Ottawa allow a transit strike for three weeks?

After three weeks of an Ottawa transit strike, there is no end in sight.

My question to the city is why isn't there backup plan?

In less than a week, citizens will return back to regular schedule with potentially no transit.

The city has \$3 million set aside set for transit, why are they not spending it to reduce the impact?

Here is my suggestion:

Have organizations apply for a grant from municipal contributions for transit that is usually directed to OC Transpo.

Let them provide shuttle service between major centres, and/or taxi carpooling service.

MICHAEL YUEN
OTTAWA

Marley & Me movie anything but a family comedy

On New Years Eve, I took my family to see the comedy Marley & Me.

It was funny in the beginning; however, a comedy it was not. We had a yellow lab and now a golden retriever. We all left the theatre in tears.

Maybe there should have been warnings to not take the children. I am very disappointed. It will be a long time before we do that again. I think I can speak for the elderly couple behind us who may have just gone through the painful task of putting a loved animal down.

It really does not make you think of any other part of the movie when you leave — not a family comedy.

KAREN NOFTELL,
HALIFAX

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

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A malfunction of some Microsoft Corp Zune music players was caused by an error in the way the device accounts for leap years, Microsoft said. Thousands of users found they could not use the 30-gigabyte Zune model, made in 2006. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA



Not just flash appeal

Analysts say PC and gadget users are increasingly interested in what's on the outside as much as what's on the inside. Makers of the latest technology will need more than just vibrant colours, rounded edges or a metallic finish to stand out in a crowded market, they say. **REUTERS**

American album sales tumble in 2008

U.S. album sales slid for a seventh time in eight years in 2008 as growth in the digital arena, one of the few bright spots in the ailing music industry, slowed, according to data issued this week.

Total album sales fell 14 per cent to 428.4 million units during the 52-week period ended Dec. 28, according to retail data collected by tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan.

This follows a 15 per cent drop in 2007, and sets a new low since the firm began monitoring sales in 1991. Sales have plummeted 45 per cent from the industry's high-water mark of 785.1 million units in 2000, due largely to Internet piracy and competition from other forms of entertainment such as video games.

Digital downloads, through online retailers

such as Apple Inc.'s iTunes store, have taken on greater importance to the industry, but the impressive growth of recent years is waning.

Digital track sales rose 27 per cent to a record 1.07 billion units, but the growth was slower than the 45 per cent jump in 2007. Digital album sales rose 32 per cent to 65.8 million units, after a 53 per cent jump in 2007.

Ringtones are also a major new focus. Lil Wayne also took honours for this year's top-selling album, moving 2.9 million copies of Tha Carter III. Last year's No. 1 album was pop vocalist Josh Groban's Noel with 3.7 million copies.

Only three other albums sold more than two million copies this year: English rock band Coldplay's Viva la Vida and country singer Taylor Swift's Fear-

less each with about 2.1 million, and rocker Kid Rock's 2007 release Rock-A-Roll Jesus with two million. Last year, eight albums sold more than 2 million copies.

Overall music sales, including albums, singles, music video and digital tracks, rose 10.5 per cent to 1.5 billion units, after 14 per cent growth in 2007 and a 19 per cent jump in 2006

REUTERS

Ringing sales

- Purchases of the top 100 mastertone ringers slid 33 per cent to 43.8 million units.
- Only one mastertone broke the two million mark — rapper Lil Wayne's Lollipop.
- Last year, three master- tones broke the two million mark.

Business in brief

AUTO While it will be years before its released, Toyota Motor Corp. is secretly designing a vehicle that run completely on solar energy. A newspaper in Japan says Toyota is developing the environmentally friendly car in order to boost struggling business.

LIQUIDATION A U.S. bankruptcy judge approved an

agreement that will transfer \$28.1 million US from a bank account of confessed swindler Bernard Madoff to the trustee liquidating Madoff's investment firm. The agreement, approved at a hearing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan, will cover liquidation costs.

PURCHASE Bank of America

Corp. completed its purchase of Merrill Lynch & Co. yesterday, creating the largest U.S. bank and perhaps one of the biggest challenges yet for longtime chief executive Kenneth Lewis. The closing allows Bank of America to bypass JP-Morgan Chase & Co., giving it about \$2.7 trillion US of assets.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Slovakia Joining the euro



A woman holds up Slovakia's first euro notes withdrawn from an ATM on New Year's Day. Slovakia joined the euro yesterday, hoping that membership of the single currency will soften the blow of the global financial crisis.

TSX closes dismal year with trio of solid gains

Toronto's main stock index jumped nearly two per cent on the last day of 2008, to end the worst year for Canadian stocks since the Great Depression on a positive note as oil prices staged a late-session rally.

The S&P/TSX composite

index closed up 156.98 points, or 1.8 per cent, at 8,987.70 in a third-straight session of triple-digit gains.

That still translates into a full-year drop of 35 per cent, the biggest for the stock market since 1931, according to TSX figures.

The Dow Jones industrial average in the United States also had its worst performance since that year, falling 34 per cent. Despite the jump, crude is down more than \$100 a barrel from its high set in July.

REUTERS

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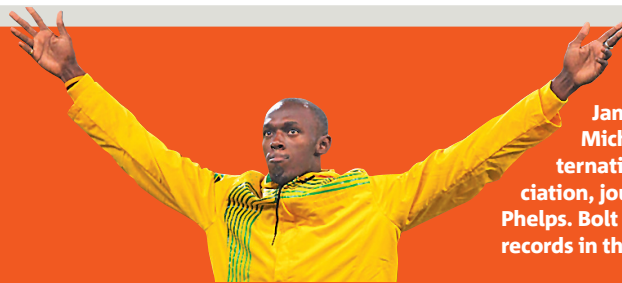
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Tanguay out six weeks

Montreal Canadiens forward and former Halifax Moosehead Alex Tanguay will miss six weeks with a left shoulder injury. Tanguay was injured during the first period of Tuesday's game against the Tampa Bay Lightning. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Sports

**Bolt edges Phelps**

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, left, edged U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps to be voted the 2008 athlete of the year by the international media. In a poll by the International Sports Press Association, journalists from 96 nations gave Bolt a narrow edge over Phelps. Bolt won three gold medals at the Olympics, setting world records in the 100 metres, 200m and 400m relay. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Quick turnaround by Buffalo's Gill

NCAA University at Buffalo Bulls coach Turner Gill admits to being "a little bit surprised" by how quickly the team's fortunes turned. In the seven seasons prior to Gill's arrival, the team won 10 games. The Bulls play the University of Connecticut in Saturday's International Bowl in Toronto.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.



The Atlanta Falcons are favoured by two points. This matchup features a veteran, grizzled quarterback — Arizona's Kurt Warner, 37, a former NFL MVP — against a greenhorn QB — Atlanta's Matt Ryan, 23, the NFL's rookie of the year.

Saturday, 9 p.m.



The Colts are favoured by one point. After struggling through the first two months of the season, Indy and superstar QB Peyton Manning regrouped to secure a seventh consecutive trip to the playoffs. The Chargers have won four in a row.

Sunday, 2 p.m.



The Ravens are favoured by 3.5 points. At the start of the season, the Ravens and Dolphins were two of the NFL's least likely teams to reach the playoffs but unassuming quarterbacks — Baltimore rookie Joe Flacco and Miami's Chad Pennington — led each squad to impressive runs toward the post-season.

Sunday, 5:30 p.m.



The Philadelphia Eagles are three-point favourites. Six weeks ago, it didn't look like they were going to make the playoffs as they played poorly and their star QB, Donovan McNabb, was benched, but they bounced back strongly while division rival Dallas Cowboys fell apart and they earned the right to visit Adrian Peterson, the NFL's top running back, and the Vikings. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Bruins beat Pens for 10th in row

Marc Savard and P.J. Axelsson each had a goal and an assist to help Boston increase its winning streak to 10 straight in a 4-2 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

David Krejci and Milan Lucic each had a goal for the Bruins, who last won

NHL RESULT

Penguins 2 Bruins 4



10 in a row in the 1972-73 campaign and are now

four wins away from the club record of 14 consecutive victories set in the 1929-30 season.

Also, Boston has not lost at home since Oct. 23 and has won 14 straight as the host. The Bruins' club record of 20 straight home wins was also set during

the 1929-30 campaign.

Manny Fernandez made 30 saves in the win. Ruslan Fedotenko and Dustin Jeffrey each had a goal for the Penguins, who have lost three straight and four of five. Dany Sabourin gave up three goals on 25 shots. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

NHL Take me out to the hockey game

Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews of the Chicago Blackhawks chase down the puck against the Detroit Red Wings during the NHL Winter Classic at Wrigley Field on Thursday. The Red Wings won the NHL's third outdoor game in the last five years, 6-4.

Steve Nash weighs his 2010 options

We're barely into 2009, granted, but the finest

Canadian basketball player in history is already thinking about 2010.

In an interview with NBC, B.C. native **Steve Nash** confirmed what appeared in this space Nov. 24 — that he is considering the idea of joining the New York Knicks as a free agent in 2010 after his contract with the Phoenix Suns expires. He emerged with another eyebrow-raising possibility, however, by mentioning the Toronto Raptors to NBC.

While not ruling out resigning with the Suns, Nash said: "I feel fortunate there could be other possibilities for me. New York, obviously, is my off-season home, so I love the city. It's a basketball mecca. (Ex-

Suns-turned-Knicks coach) **Mike D'Antoni** is there so there's a lot of attractive variables. And then Toronto, to go back to Canada to play for the home team, so to speak. I feel good that one of those could really be a really strong possibility."

• Heaven knows the Raptors need help.

Despite Canadian media apologists who regularly utter nonsense about the Raptors "keeping close" to their opponents, the reality is that Canada's NBA franchise has deteriorated woefully, to the point where management is planning ticket-price reductions.

Fan interest is waning partly because many of the Raptors' games aren't televised by any network that allows the masses to watch them. Mind you, considering the Raps' ineptitude, that may be a positive for

YorkReport**Marty York**

marty.york@metronews.ca



the club.

Oh, and then there's word spreading around the NBA like wildfire that first-year Raptor **Jermaine O'Neal** has become a frequent complainer about injuries that may be more imagined than real.

• Ex-NBA superstar **Charles Barkley**, my favourite TV sports analyst, was drinking with **Jaleel White** — a.k.a. **Steve Urkel** of the old Family Matters sitcom — at an Arizona nightclub called Dirty/Pretty shortly before he was arrested for DUI Tuesday night ... Ex-NFL star **Andre**

Rison, who also spent some time with the CFL's Toronto Argonauts, also was arrested this week on charges of public intoxication in Texas ... Look for left-hander **Andy Pettitte** to re-sign with the New York Yankees next week as the Evil Empire continues to spend on a refurbished pitching rotation ... I'm told, incidentally, that the Blue Jays wouldn't mind signing an ex-Yank to fortify their offence. The question is whether they're willing to pay **Bobby Abreu** the millions he's seeking ... And soccer icon **David Beckham** has an interesting new tattoo on his arm. It's in Hebrew and says: "My son, do not forget my teaching but keep my commands in your heart."

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Canadian win labelled a classic

With his team down three goals in the first 13 minutes on New Year's Eve, John Tavares started telling his teammates what they had to do Wednesday night. Then he showed them.

With two goals in 48 seconds to spark a comeback and an empty-netter to cap his night, Tavares continued to cement his status as hockey's next phenom with a marvellous performance in Canada's 7-4 win over Team USA.

"He's going to be one of the best players you've ever seen," teammate P.K. Subban said. "He's done it in the OHL. He did it in minor hockey. He's doing it on this stage. I have no doubt he'll do it in the NHL."

The win sets up a possible clash with archrival Russia in the world junior championship semifinals. Canada will play the winner of a quarter-final between Russia and the Czech Republic.

On New Year's Eve, it was the bash that couldn't be missed. They bashed each other into the boards in a game that had a bit of everything: A big lead, a big comeback, own-goals, great saves, great pace, stupid penalties and lots of bad blood between two fierce rivals. The Canadians were two-thirds of the way through their first-period comeback — Tavares scored his second of the game — and the Canadian team decided to celebrate the goal by skating by the American bench.

Chris DiDomenico got a stick blade to the face as he went by and fell to the ice. Seeing a fallen comrade, Stefan Della Rovere hammered American James van Riemsdyk into the boards. DiDomenico and van Riemsdyk tended to their aches while the teams began scuffling.

In the end, no penalties were called. American coach Ron Rolston was upset with the refereeing, in particular the beginning of the second period when the game clock didn't start with the drop of the puck.

Canada finished the first round 4-0, earning a bye into the semifinals. The Americans now face Slovakia tonight in the quarterfinals. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



1. I KISSED A GIRL ~ KATY PERRY
2. BLEEDING LOVE ~ LEONA LEWIS
3. NEVER TOO LATE ~ HEDLEY
4. LOW ~ FLO RIDA/T-PAIN
5. FEELS LIKE TONIGHT ~ DAUGHTRY
6. 4 MINUTES (TO SAVE THE WORLD) ~ MADONNA/J. TIMBERLAKE
7. BEST I EVER HAD ~ STATE OF SHOCK
8. JUST DANCE ~ LADY GAGA/COLBY O'DONIS
9. TATTOO ~ JORDIN SPARKS
10. TAKE A BOW ~ RIHANNA
11. OLD SCHOOL ~ HEDLEY
12. ONE STEP AT A TIME ~ JORDIN SPARKS
13. VIVA LA VIDA ~ COLDPLAY
14. ALL OR NOTHING ~ THEORY OF A DEADMAN
15. POCKETFUL OF SUNSHINE ~ NATASHA BEDINGFIELD
16. DANGEROUS ~ KARDINALOFFICIAL/AKON
17. SO WHAT ~ PINK
18. SEE YOU AGAIN ~ MILEY CYRUS
19. FOREVER ~ CHRIS BROWN
20. THE TIME OF MY LIFE ~ DAVID COOK
21. NO AIR ~ JORDIN SPARKS/CHRIS BROWN
22. IT'S NOT MY TIME ~ 3 DOORS DOWN
23. STOP AND STARE ~ ONE REPUBLIC
24. WON'T GO HOME WITHOUT YOU ~ MAROON 5
25. SORRY ~ BUCK CHERRY
26. DON'T STOP THE MUSIC ~ RIHANNA
27. NEVER TOO LATE ~ 3 DAYS GRACE
28. CRUSH ~ DAVID ARCHULETA
29. SAY ~ JOHN MAYER
30. YOUR LOVE IS A LIE ~ SIMPLE PLAN
31. DISTURBIA ~ RIHANNA
32. HOT ~ AVRIL LAVIGNE
33. WHAT ABOUT NOW ~ DAUGHTRY
34. WITH YOU ~ CHRIS BROWN
35. ALL SUMMER LONG ~ KID ROCK
36. I'LL KEEP YOUR MEMORY VAGUE ~ FINGER 11
37. BREAK THE ICE ~ BRITNEY SPEARS
38. WHEN I'M WITH YOU ~ FABER DRIVE
39. HOT N COLD ~ KATY PERRY
40. FOR THE NIGHTS I CAN'T REMEMBER ~ HEDLEY
41. LOVE SONG ~ SARA BAREILLES
42. GOTTA BE SOMEBODY ~ NICKELBACK
43. IF I NEVER SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN ~ MAROON 5/RIHANNA
44. DON'T CALL ME BABY ~ KREESHA TURNER
45. I'LL BE WAITING ~ LENNY KRAVITZ
46. BETTER IN TIME ~ LEONA LEWIS
47. CLUMSY ~ FERGIE
48. DRIVE MY SOUL ~ LIGHTS
49. LOVE REMAINS THE SAME ~ GAVIN ROSSDALE
50. BEAUTIFUL U R ~ DEBORAH COX
51. IN LOVE WITH A GIRL ~ GAVIN DEGRAW

Top 100 of 2008

C 100 ^{FM}
TODAY'S BEST MUSIC

52. UNTIL I STAY ~ JULLY BLACK
53. IF I WERE A BOY ~ BEYONCE
54. WORLD WE KNOW ~ CRASH PARALLEL
55. ANGEL ~ NATASHA BEDINGFIELD
56. INNOCENCE ~ AVRIL LAVIGNE
57. I'M YOURS ~ JASON MRAZ
58. THESE HARD TIMES ~ MATCHBOX 20
59. BOUNCE WITH ME ~ KREESHA TURNER
60. SHATTERED (TURN THE CAR) ~ O.A.R.
61. REALIZE ~ COLBIE CAILLAT
62. CLOSER ~ NE-YO
63. I THOUGHT I'D SEEN EVERYTHING ~ BRYAN ADAMS
64. POKERFACE ~ LADY GAGA
65. SHADOW OF THE DAY ~ LINKIN PARK
66. SUMMERTIME ~ NKOTB
67. WHATEVER IT TAKES ~ LIFEHOUSE
68. QUEEN ~ JULLY BLACK
69. RIGHT HERE (DEPARTED) ~ BRANDY
70. RAIN DELAYS ~ CRASH PARALLEL
71. LIGHT ON ~ DAVID COOK
72. SUPERHUMAN ~ CHRIS BROWN
73. LITTLE BIT OF RED ~ SERENA RYDER
74. LOVE IN THIS CLUB ~ USHER
75. LET IT ROCK ~ KEVIN RUDOLF
76. UNITY ~ KELLY ROWLAND
77. KEEPS GETTIN' BETTER ~ CHRISTINA AGUILARA
78. SAVE YOU ~ SIMPLE PLAN
79. LEAVIN' ~ JESSE MCCARTNEY
80. TEARDROPS ON MY GUITAR ~ TAYLOR SWIFT
81. ALL I SEE ~ KYLIE
82. WHEN YOU LOOK ME IN THE EYES ~ JONAS BROTHERS
83. IN GOD'S HANDS ~ NELLY FURTADO/K. URBAN
84. WHEN I GROW UP ~ PUSSYCAT DOLLS
85. SHINE ~ BRIAN MELO
86. MILES AWAY ~ MADONNA
87. HUMAN ~ KILLERS
88. WOMANIZER ~ BRITNEY SPEARS
89. SING ~ THEO TAMS
90. GIVE IT 2 ME ~ MADONNA
91. TONITE ~ ADDICTIV
92. TAKE YOU THERE ~ SEAN KINGSTON
93. HEAVENS TABLE ~ GAROU
94. TOUCH MY BODY ~ MARIAH CAREY
95. WEIGHTY GHOST ~ WINTERSLEEP
96. SOBER ~ PINK
97. GIVE ME THE MUSIC ~ EVA AVILA
98. SHAKE IT ~ METRO STATION
99. SUMMERTIME ~ BRIAN MELO
100. SPOTLIGHT ~ JENNIFER HUDSON

C 100 ^{FM}
TODAY'S BEST MUSIC



Potent Rainmen set to open PBL season

Visit Quebec City Kebs for first regular-season game in 10 months

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

When the Halifax Rainmen take the floor tonight in Quebec City, their top scorer could be Eric Crookshank. Or Brian Silverhorn. Or Glen Dandridge. Or Cordell Jeanty.

In fact, the Rainmen boast a half-dozen players who can light it up on any given night, a fact that comforts them heading into the Premier Basketball League's opening night. The Rainmen face the Quebec City Kebs at 8:30 p.m. and the Montreal Sasquatch tomorrow at the same time.

"For a team with this much talent, it's going to

take turns, who's going to be the person we lean on," said Rainmen head coach Rick Lewis. "It's going to rotate. We're going to be able to score. We're going to be able to score at will."

That was certainly the case in the pre-season. Four different players led the team in scoring during a four-game tournament at The Tower that started on Boxing Day.

Returnees Crookshank and Silverhorn looked as good, or better, than last year; point guard Kevin Hammack controlled games; Jeanty and Rob Sanders showed toughness and scoring prowess; and Dandridge flashed his shooting ability.

Crookshank and Silver-

horn led the team in pre-season scoring, averaging more than 20 points per game.

"We've got a real good team, real talented," said Hammack, a four-year NCAA Division 1 starter at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C. "We're starting to gel and put it together."

"We've got some things to work on, but when we get those things down, we'll be able to compete for a title."

Defence is one thing the Rainmen are highly concerned about. They finished with a 3-2 pre-season record, but struggled to lock down the opposition in their losses.

A healthy roster will help, as they played with

seven men during the pre-season because of injuries to Sanders (Achilles), Sir-Voliant Brown (ankle), Jimmy Twyman (ankle) and Tyronne McNeal (groin). All will be available tonight.

The Rainmen beat the Kebs 101-95 in exhibition play on Dec. 21.

Said Dandridge: "We won up there with seven last time. Hopefully we can do the same thing with 11, the full squad."

• The seats were filled at The Tower for all four games ... The Rainmen haven't played a regular-season game since March 15 in the American Basketball Association, nearly a 10-month break ... The Rainmen debut at home on Jan. 9.



Point guard Kevin Hammack says the talented Rainmen are starting to gel.

Gordon makes NHL debut

NHL Porters Lake native Andrew Gordon received an early Christmas present over the holidays, making his NHL debut on Dec. 23 with the Washington Capitals. The 23-year-old forward played seven minutes 12 seconds in Washington's 5-4 road win over the New York Rangers after a call-up from the American Hockey League. Gordon, a former NCAA star at St. Cloud State, was returned to the AHL after the game. He has 11 goals and 11 assists for 22 points in 33 games with the Hershey Bears. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Team Atlantic looking for win

HOCKEY Team Atlantic had a 1-2 record after three games at the world under-17 hockey challenge in Port Alberni, B.C. The squad earned its first victory on Wednesday after a pair of losses, a 6-5 overtime win over Germany. Team Atlantic was scheduled to play Team Pacific late last night. Newfoundland forward Brandon Hynes leads the team in scoring with three goals and three assists. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports in brief

HOCKEY Halifax's Justin Bowers will play in the ECHL all-star game on Jan. 21 in Reading, Pa. The Dayton Bombers rookie has 31 points in 30 games. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Stransky looks for another clean start

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Jan Stransky is eager for his second chance to make a first impression on Halifax Mooseheads fans.

The 18-year-old right-winger joined the Mooseheads last weekend after coming over in a trade from the Gatineau Olympiques, but was ejected less than six minutes into his home debut on Tuesday night for checking from behind.

That derailed his hot start with the team. He had tallied three goals and two assists in his first two road games and was



Jan Stransky

named the QMJHL's offensive player of the week.

The Herd hosts the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles Saturday at 7 p.m. and the P.E.I. Rocket on Sunday at 4 p.m.

"I hope it will be better for me," Stransky said of his next game at the Metro Centre.

"I want to be a leader here. I want to help Halifax and I hope I'll get a lot of points."

That's the kind of talk Mooseheads management likes to hear. They nabbed Stransky, a speedy winger with a laser of a shot, for a fifth-round draft choice on Dec. 27, and plan to put him on the top line with fellow Czech Republic native Tomas Knotek and Yuri Cheremetiev in the second half.

Stransky, who won a scoring title in the Czech under-20 league last season, had 16 points in 32

games in Gatineau, but said he wasn't particularly happy with his ice time.

"I wasn't playing a lot in Gatineau and my agent (Petr Svoboda) said, 'If you want, you can go to Halifax because they want you,'" Stransky said. "I said, 'Yeah, OK, I'll go there.'"

With Stransky and Knotek expected back next season, the Mooseheads will likely deal their top European draft pick for a defenceman by the Jan. 8 trade deadline. They also need to clear at least two players off their roster by Jan. 10.

The Mooseheads are 11-25-3, two points out of last place.

Shoveller tourney tips off Friday

CIS BASKETBALL The 18th annual Rod Shoveller men's basketball exhibition tournament begins Friday at Dalplex.

The Dalhousie Tigers will be joined by the Saint Mary's Huskies, St. Francis Xavier X-Men, Carleton Ravens, Laval Rouge et Or, Lakehead Thunderwolves and Bishop's Gaiteurs.

Action begins at 1 p.m., with the championship Sunday at 3 p.m.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

For more sports coverage, visit us online at metronews.ca/sports.

Lions trade away Locke, McArthur

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Lions traded a pair of star forwards over the holidays to expedite their rebuilding effort.

The Lions dealt captain and leading scorer Chad Locke and his right-hand man, Jonathan McArthur, to contending teams in separate deals to acquire youth and draft picks.

Locke, a 20-year-old forward who had 23 goals and 26 assists for 49 points in 33 games, went to the Summerside Western Capitals for Gerrad Grant, Derek Larade, Kyle Mariani, fourth- and fifth-round picks and future considerations.



Chad Locke was the Lions' leading scorer with 49 points.

McArthur, a 20-year-old forward with 47 points in 34 games, went to the Truro Bearcats for goalie Kody Blois, 17.

The moves will likely

make wins even harder to come by in the second half for the Lions, who are last in the Maurice Bent Division with a 6-26-5 record and 17 points.

SCOREBOARD									
QMJHL					P.E.I. at Acadie-Bathurst Lewiston at Quebec Shawinigan at Val-d'Or Victoriaville at Rouyn-Noranda				
ATLANTIC DIVISION					SUNDAY'S GAMES				
Moncton	29	3	5	63	P.E.I. at HALIFAX	Moncton at Acadie-Bathurst	Drummondville at Gatineau	Saint John at Lewiston	Chicoutimi at Quebec
Cape Breton	27	12	2	56	Drummondville at Lewiston	Shawinigan at Rouyn-Noranda	Victoriaville at Val-d'Or	Baie-Comeau at Montreal	
Saint John	21	17	4	46					
Bathurst	15	18	8	38					
P.E.I.	14	20	8	36					
HALIFAX	11	25	3	25					
CENTRAL DIVISION					PBL				
Drummondville	31	4	3	65	ATLANTIC DIVISION				
Shawinigan	32	8	0	64	Halifax	0	0.000		
Victoriaville	20	20	1	41	Manchester	0	0.000		
Lewiston	13	27	0	26	Montreal	0	0.000		
EAST DIVISION					Quebec	0	0.000		
Quebec	29	8	2	60	Quebec	0	0.000		
Rimouski	22	17	1	45	Vermont	0	0.000		
Chicoutimi	15	19	4	34					
Baie-Comeau	10	22	6	26					
WEST DIVISION					FRIDAY'S GAME				
Rouyn-Noranda	20	14	5	45	Halifax at Quebec City				
Montreal	20	17	1	41	SATURDAY'S GAME				
Gatineau	18	18	3	39	Halifax at Montreal				
Val-d'Or	9	26	5	23					
FRIDAY'S GAMES					NHL				
Saint John at Moncton					THURSDAY'S RESULTS				
Drummondville at Montreal					Detroit 6 Chicago 4				
SATURDAY'S GAMES					Boston 4 Pittsburgh 2				
Cape Breton at HALIFAX					Buffalo 4 Toronto 1				
Baie-Comeau at Gatineau					Tampa Bay at Washington				
Chicoutimi at Rimouski					Vancouver at Nashville				
SATURDAY'S GAMES					FRIDAY'S GAMES				
					Montreal at New Jersey				
					St. Louis at Carolina				
SATURDAY'S GAMES					FRIDAY'S GAMES				
					Houston at Toronto				
					Miami at Orlando				
					Atlanta at New Jersey				
					Indiana at Phoenix				
					Chicago at Cleveland				
					Washington at Boston				
					San Antonio at Memphis				
					Denver at Oklahoma City				
					Sacramento at Detroit				
					Golden State at Minnesota				
					Charlotte at Milwaukee				
					Philadelphia at Dallas				
					L.A. Clippers at Phoenix				
					New Orleans at Portland				
					Utah at L.A. Lakers				

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Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Year of the Third Dimension

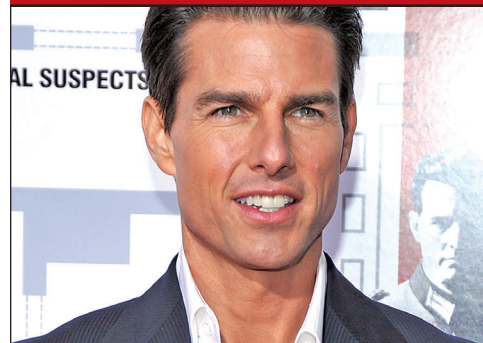
Pg 18



DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg, the man behind such family hits as Kung-Fu Panda and Shrek, has been touring North America to promote what he's determined as cinema's next great innovation: 3-D movies.

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Cruise's million-dollar smile noticeably gone in Valkyrie.

music

Pg 22



Indie rockers share touring, recording adventures online.

entertainment

Pg 24



Not surprisingly, Ledger tops poll of biggest story in 2008.

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Movies

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2009: The year of 3-D films

Movie feature

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg is in the middle of a tough road trip. The man behind such family hits as Kung-Fu Panda and Shrek has been touring North America to promote what he's determined as cinema's next great innovation: 3-D.

Now, that may sound odd. After all, the fad of 3-D surfaced decades ago and since has become something of a punchline, which is exactly what's making Katzenberg's mission so challenging.

"It's really hard to get people to think about it in a different way, and the only way is to show it," said Katzenberg during a stop in Toronto.

By treating journalists to a sneak peek of his groundbreaking InTru digital 3-D comedy Monsters

vs. Aliens — coming in March — Katzenberg is showing off how digital advancement has breached the campy fourth wall that was once reserved for such B-movies as 1953's Robot Monster and Cat-Women of the Moon.

"It was used as a gimmick," said Katzenberg about the historical use of 3-D.

"It doesn't replace a great story, so we come back to the very fundamental aspect of this, which is (that) Monsters vs. Aliens is great in its own right ... but I think to be able to experience it in 3-D is something really exciting."

Katzenberg is not alone in this sentiment. While other films have been adapted for 3-D screenings, we're entering a

year filled with 3-D-conceived projects, including My Bloody Valentine 3-D, Pixar's Up, Disney's A Christmas Carol and James Cameron's long-awaited Avatar.

For Katzenberg — whose studio already spends about \$165 million per movie — the

decision to begin making his films in 3-D wasn't easy. The technology will add 10 per cent to his costs, which will likely be reflected in the admission price. Some critics say such a gamble in a recessionary economic climate is risky, but Katzenberg remains true to his latest innovation.

"Relative to any other choice you can do out of the home, movies are still just a phenomenal value. And frankly, in more challenged economic times, people appreciate it more," said Katzenberg.

"People took movies for granted and they took the movie theatre for granted, and I don't think they are right now."

What came first: Tom Cruise or the smile?

InFocus

Richard Crouse

mrchaos33@hotmail.com

Valkyrie looks like a standard-issue Tom Cruise movie with the usual explosions, intrigue and wild action. The missing key element is his megawatt smile. His Col. Claus von Stauffenberg is so stern-faced he makes the expression-challenged Buster Keaton seem riotously animated by comparison.

If Helen of Troy was the face that launched a thousand ships, then Cruise has the smile that sold a million movie tickets. Wide and toothy, it stretches the full breadth of his face as a physical manifestation of his movie-star charisma.

The smile debuted in a

Risky Business scene where he recruits clients for his new business. There it was a charming, non-aggressive symbol of his self-assuredness. The '80s saw the lop-sided grin become a pop-culture icon. It shone from the cockpit of his Top Gun F-14 and reflected off the Stoli bottles in Cocktail. In each of these films the smile is 90 per cent of the performance.

The villain characters of The Last Samurai and Collateral show the smile's emotional range. The smile is still there, but now it's menacing. For example, Vincent, the hit man in Collateral, uses an ominously icy smile when he's about to hurt people.

In one form or another, the smile has been front and centre in all of Cruise's hits. Without it, Valkyrie just doesn't feel like a real Cruise blockbuster.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE (Drama)
BEST DIRECTOR David Fincher
BEST ACTOR (Drama) Brad Pitt
BEST SCREENPLAY Screenplay by Eric Roth and Robin Swicord
Story by Eric Roth
BEST ORIGINAL SCORE Alexandre Desplat

"A Movie That Must Be Experienced. A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT."
— Rex Reed

Rolling Stone
"SWEEPS YOU AWAY... WHAT DAVID FINCHER DOES IS SIMPLY EXTRAORDINARY. He fuses ferocity and feeling and creates a world you want to get lost in."
— Peter Travers

NEW YORK POST
★★★★★
"A CLASSIC FOR THE AGES. Brad Pitt gives a deeply soulful and affecting performance. Cate Blanchett is luminous."
— Lou Lumenick

BRAD PITT **CATE BLANCHETT**

The Curious Case Of BENJAMIN BUTTON

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FROM THE SHORT STORY BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD SCREENPLAY BY ERIC ROTH AND ROBIN SWICORD DIRECTED BY DAVID FINCHER
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PRODUCED BY ADAM SHANKMAN JENNIFER GIBGOT ANN MARIE SANDERLIN GARRETT GRANT PRODUCED BY ANDREW GUNN ADAM SANDLER JACK GARRAPUTO STORY BY MATT LOPEZ
SCREENPLAY BY MATT LOPEZ AND TIM HERLIHY DIRECTED BY ADAM SHANKMAN
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Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

The winter wasteland where films go to die

Movie feature

RICK MCGINNIS

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

Watching movies in January is a lot like dating on the rebound after a bad break-up; no one expects you to take anything seriously, and after the trauma you've just experienced, you can be excused for letting your standards down just a bit.

There's one thing everyone can agree on about movies released during the first three months of the year — in spite of how much they cost to make, or how good they might actually be, these aren't films anyone really expects to be in the running for the Oscars nine months hence.

This is the season of the middling horror franchise, the low-budget remake, the featherweight comedy and the disappointing marquee projects, finally taken off the



Rhona Mitra stars in Underworld 3: The Rise of the Lycans.

shelves and allowed to expire in the theatres with a modicum of dignity.

The sterile and purgatorial waiting room before DVD release, in other words.

A brief sampling of the

titles scheduled to hit the theatres after New Year's Day will paint a picture for you: Midnight Movie, The Unborn, Race to Witch Mountain and Pink Panther 2.

There are films with portentous colons in

their titles: Butterfly Effect: Revelation; Clive Barker Presents: Hellraiser; Underworld 3: The Rise of the Lycans; and The Jonas Brothers: Burning Up.

There are not one but two 3-D titles to tempt

you from your warm living rooms on snowy nights — My Bloody Valentine 3-D and Under the Sea 3-D — and a few chick flicks, such as the Renee Zellweger vehicle New In Town, along with Confessions of a Shopa-

What's to come

JANUARY:

- Butterfly Effect: Revelation
- Mall Cop
- My Bloody Valentine 3-D
- Underworld 3: The Rise of the Lycans

FEBRUARY:

- He's Just Not That Into You
- Friday the 13th
- Confessions of a Shopaholic
- The Pink Panther 2

holic and He's Just Not That Into You.

By the time the much-anticipated Watchmen arrives in March, the movie landscape post-Oscars will look as barren as the Somme after a barrage, and Zack Snyder's FX-laden comic-book epic will probably arrive like the mothership, bringing with it the first monster opening weekend of the year.

From the tip of winter's chilly blade, it seems like an eternity away.

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ROSALIND WISEMAN MICHAEL EASY WITH BARRY PEPPER AND WOODY HARRISON MUSIC BY ANGELO MILI PRODUCED BY DAVID CROCKETT DAVID BLOOMFIELD KEN STOLTZ DOMENICO PROACCI WRITTEN BY GRANT NIEPORTE
DIRECTED BY GABRIELE MUCCINO CASTING BY TODD BLACK JAMES LASSITER JASON BLUMENTHAL STEVE TISCH WILL SMITH GABRIELE MUCCINO COLUMBIA PICTURES
SevenPounds-movie.ca Soundtrack on Varese Sarabande FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

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Bryan Trottier (HOF)
Dale Hawerchuk (HOF)
Gary Leeman
Bob Bourne
Cliff Ronning
Ron Hoggarth (Referee)
Rod Black (TSN) ...and more!*

Trottier
Leeman
Shutt
Bourne
Ronning

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Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 2 TO THURS., JAN. 8. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

HALIFAX

BAYERS LAKE

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Australia (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9
Bedtime Stories (G) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:10-3:05-7:9:40 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:45-3:30-7:9:40
Bolt (G) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sun 12:40-3:45-7:9:40 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 1:10-3:45-7:9:40
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:12-30-4:4:30-8-8:30 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:30-1-4:30-4:45-8:30-9
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:10-3:20-7:15-10:05 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:15-10:05
Doubt (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-4-7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:50-4-7:20-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:25-3:10-6:35-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon 1:05-3:30-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 1:05-3:30-6:35-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:35-3:30-6:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:25-3:45-6:30
Marley & Me (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:25-12:30-3:30-4-6:40-9:55 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:40-1-3:50-4-6:40-9:55
Quantum of Solace (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 7-9:50
The Reader (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sun 12:30-3:35-7:05-9:55 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 12:45-3:35-7:05-9:55
Seven Pounds (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:25-3:30-6:50-10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 1-3:55-6:50-10
The Spirit (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-3:35-7:05-10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:35-9:20 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:50-3:20-6:35-9:20
Twilight (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sun 12:10-3:30-6:50-9:50 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 12:55-3:40-6:50-9:50
Valkyrie (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:05-3:25-6:45-10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:45-10
Yes Man (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-7-9:55 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:40-3:20-7-9:55

IMAX

190 Chain Lake Dr., 902-876-4800

The Day the Earth Stood Still: The

IMAX Experience (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:40-6:55-9:45

OXFORD THEATRE

6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488

Slumdog Millionaire (STC) Fri-Sat 2-6:30-9:30 Sun 4-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30

PARK LANE

5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

Bedtime Stories (G) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:50-3:10-7:10-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 12:50-3:10-7:10-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:10-7:10-9:40
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:20-3:50-7:30 Stadium Seating Sun 12:20-3:50-7:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:10-3-6:45-9:20 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Sun 12:10-3-6:45-9:20 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 3-6:45-9:20
Milk (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:20-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:20-9:10
Seven Pounds (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-3:40-7-9:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-7-9:50
The Spirit (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:20-10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:10-7:20-10
Valkyrie (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:30-6:40-9:30
Yes Man (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:20-4-6:30-9 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-6:30-9

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LOWER SACKVILLE

760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022

Bedtime Stories (G) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 12:45-3:10-7:15-9:45 Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 12:45-3:10-7:15-9:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 12:30-4-7:30 Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 12:30-4-7:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:25
Marley & Me (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7-9:40
Seven Pounds (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:45-9:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3-6:30
Valkyrie (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:30
Yes Man (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-6:40-9:15

DARTMOUTH

DARTMOUTH

650 Portland St., 902-434-4200



Adam Sandler stars in Bedtime Stories, which is currently in theatres.

Four Christmases (PG) Stereo Fri-Sun 2:50-7:05-9:15 Stereo Mon-Thu 7:05-9:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Stereo Fri-Sun 2:20
Quantum of Solace (14) Stereo Fri-Thu 6:40-9:20
The Spirit (STC) Stereo Fri-Sun 2:40-6:55-9:30 Stereo Mon-Thu 6:55-9:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Stereo Fri-Sun 2:30-6:50 Stereo Mon-Thu 6:50
Twilight (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 9:05
Valkyrie (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 2-6:35-9:10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:35-9:10
Yes Man (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 2:10-6:30-9 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu

6:30-9

DARTMOUTH CROSSING

145 Shubie Dr., 902-481-3251

Australia (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45
Bedtime Stories (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7-9:25
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:05-9:40
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-4:15-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 7:25-10

Doubt (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:35-9:15
Four Christmases (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:20-9:45
Marley & Me (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:35-3:30-6:35-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed 3:30-6:35-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 12:35-3:30-6:35-9:35
Seven Pounds (14) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-6:30-9:30
The Spirit (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:20-6:25-9:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Dolby

Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-9:50
Valkyrie (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:55-10
Yes Man (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:20-7:15-9:55

TRURO

TRURO

20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

Bedtime Stories (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 3-7-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 3-7-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 2-7:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2-7:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:30
Four Christmases (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:25
Marley & Me (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 2:20-6:50-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:20-6:50-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
Seven Pounds (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 2:10-6:30-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:10-6:30-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9:10
The Spirit (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2:40-6:40-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-9
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2:30-7:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:20
Yes Man (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 2:50-7:10-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:50-7:10-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:10-9:20

BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER

349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sat 2:15-6:40-9:05 Sun 2:15-6:40-9:05 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:05
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (STC) No Passes Fri-Sat 2-7:30 Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 2:45-6:45-9:30 Sun 2:45-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:30
Seven Pounds (14) Fri-Sun 2:30-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:20
The Spirit Fri-Sun 2:10-6:55-9:25 Mon 6:55-9:25 Tue-Wed 9:25 Thu 6:55-9:25
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Sun 2:40-7 Mon-Thu 7
Yes Man (PG) Fri-Sun 2:20-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:35

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Music

See-through lives of indie rock

BRIAN TOWIE

brian.towie@metronews.ca



The term "Transparent" in Amos The Transparent couldn't stick better.

The Ottawa-based indie rock outfit takes its fans beyond the music, posting videos of their adventures touring across the country and recording in-studio on their website. Hours stuck in traffic singing Celine Dion songs (ironically, of course!), fussing over stacks of ready-made grocery store pies, sound checks on short notice — the life of a travelling band

can be a rough one.

"Being in a band means nothing nowadays and it's not glorious. Your grandmother could be in a band," says Amos creator and frontman Jonathan Chandler. "So we thought it would be a fun, experimental thing to do that no one's really done before."

On Celine Dion he adds, "That was our bass player (James Nicol). You can only cycle through Kings of Leon so many times."

But indie rock lovers are cycling through Amos The Transparent more and more. Their experimental arrangements on debut

Everything I've Forgotten To Forget, based in folk acoustic melodies and classic rock, have gone over well with audiences at venues across the land — some including openers for Polaris Prize winner Patrick Watson.

Amy Millan of the Stars — birthed in part by music collective Broken Social Scene, which Amos The Transparent has been compared with — took notice of the band after a 2006 Bluesfest show in Ottawa, which led to an album guest star spot on track After All That It's Come To This.

"I would say that it's

pretty hard to classify our music, or any kind of indie rock for that matter," Chandler said. "Certainly to Broken Social Scene, which I think happened because we originally started with eight people and they're such a large group too."

Chandler plans to release more for an exclusively digital EP in late January, which he says is the reason we haven't seen any recent online docs. But fans take note: They're on their way.



For a link to the band's website check out Metronews.ca/music



Amos The Transparent's frontman Jonathan Chandler says its sound is "hard to classify."

Metro recommends

• BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB, LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL:

The Cuban collective's exuberant live performance is caught on tape on only the second album featuring the original members ever released.

• FALL OUT BOY, FOLIE À DEUX:

Chicago pop-punk outfit sheds emo handcuffs, adds a little prog rock and gets some help from Debbie Harry and Lil Wayne on its fifth studio offering.

• FEMI KUTI, DAY BY DAY:

The son of legendary African musician Fela Kuti delivers an irresistible collection of danceable Afrobeat cuts.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Top-notch prospects for 2009 musical season

SoundCheck

Alan Cross



alan@ongoinghistory.com

Wondering who's going to rock your world in 2009? Some possibilities:

LAND OF TALK: Female-fronted, Montreal-based band has a chance at being a Big Deal in 2009, especially since Metric has tak-

en so long to release their next record.

DEAD CONFEDERATE: Fuzzy, spacey band managed by the same folks who fostered a little band called "Nirvana" back in the day.

FRANZ FERDINAND: Their

third record, Tonight: Franz Ferdinand, will be out on the 27th. I've heard it and I like it a lot.

FIGHT LIKE APES: Insanely raw group from Dublin that is about as far from U2 as you can get.

LUDO: St. Louis post-emo

group that reminds me of a young Weezer.

SOME OTHERS: U2's No Line on the Horizon; Santogold and the Ting Tings.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

TOP 10 MOBILE DOWNLOADS

1. Poker Face Lady Gaga ft. Colby O'Donis
2. Live Your Life T.I. ft. Rihanna
3. Decode Paramore
4. Right Now (Na Na Na) Akon
5. Heartless Kanye West
6. Hot N Cold Katy Perry
7. Rock N' Roll Train AC/DC
8. Circus Britney Spears
9. Love Story Taylor Swift
10. I'm So Paid Akon

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Michael Pitt signs up for Scorsese pilot

Actor Michael Pitt is in final negotiations to join Steve Buscemi in Boardwalk Empire, Martin Scorsese's drama pilot for HBO about the 1920s origins of Atlantic City. Pitt plays a ruthless flunky, while Buscemi plays a liquor-smuggling businessman. **REUTERS**

Television



Grace Park as Sharon Agathon on Battlestar Galactica.

When I wish upon a TV star...

IntelleVision



TRYING TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE: Another year has begun, and the paucity of TV news means lots of retrospective and anticipatory themes from columnists, so why should I be any different? Alan Sepinwall of the New Jersey Star-Ledger took time to take Shonda Rhimes, Tim Kring, the writers on House, Amy Sherman-Palladino and Jeff Zucker to task for, retrospectively, this season of Grey's Anatomy, this season of Heroes, the character of Remy "Thirteen" Hadley, The Return Of Jezebel James and the decision to abandon the 10 p.m. week-day time slot to Jay Leno's new show.

Over at *televisionwith-outpity.com*, Angel Cohn fervently wished for more Simon on American Idol, more fun on Heroes, a less annoying Pam on The Office, some real A-list stars on Dancing With The Stars, and some personality for Anna Torv's Olivia on Fringe. Reading over her list made me wonder a) that Fringe didn't get cancelled after three episodes, and b) that TV columnists sure watch a hell of a lot of TV.

Zap2it.com's TV critic Rick Porter made nine resolutions for the industry, wishing that CBS could wean itself off of police procedural, that Fox could come up with a good comedy that wasn't a cartoon, that HBO can make a break from "the dense, somber shows the channel has tried out in the past couple years" (I disagree, but what-

ever,) and that NBC can "rediscover its soul," instead of programming based on profit margins from mediocre but mysteriously profitable shows. Good luck on that one.

Porter also wishes that Battlestar Galactica, about to head into the last half of its farewell season, will get a bit more respect from the industry. "None of the show's fine ensemble of actors has ever sniffed an Emmy or Golden Globe nomination," Porter writes, "and it counts no series honors and only a couple of writing and directing Emmy nods."

I'd second that, especially since Galactica is a prime example of exactly the sort of show no major network or "quality cable" outlet like HBO would ever get behind, despite the fact that shows like Galactica are probably the future of TV — genre-defying, intensely addictive, and wildly influential for at least the next few years. Beyond that, the only thing I'm hoping to see in the new year is a new series of Metacocalypse and those overdue Mary Tyler Moore Show box sets.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Catch Metro's best- and worst-dressed list, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

Viacom and Time Warner battle over channel access

DISPUTE Viacom Inc. and Time Warner Cable were at a standoff on Wednesday, but hoped that top executives would step in to resolve a dispute that threatens to prevent more than 13 million U.S. subscribers from seeing shows like Dora the Explorer and Jon Stewart's The Daily Show. At issue is an extra \$35 million US to \$40 million US that Viacom wants Time Warner to pay for carrying its cable channels, including MTV, Comedy Central and Nickelodeon. Time Warner has refused, saying the economic climate makes it impossible to pass along such costs to its customers. Viacom has denied Time Warner's request for an extension of the current terms. Instead, Viacom threatened to pull its TV networks from Time Warner at midnight on Jan. 1 unless a deal was reached.

REUTERS

Entertainment in brief

SPINOFF Not all fans of The Hills appear ready to move to The City. The premiere of MTV's Hills spinoff, which follows Whitney Port as she relocates to New York to take on a new job, averaged 1.6 million total viewers. That's a dropoff from the Season 4 finale of The Hills, which averaged 2.6 million viewers in the time slot the previous week. (Both The Hills finale and The City premiere aired during holiday weeks.) It did benefit from its lead-in, reality series Bromance, which averaged 963,000 viewers.

REUTERS

ARREST Actor Matt Dillon was arrested and charged with speeding after police clocked him traveling at 106 miles per hour on a Vermont highway. Dillon was pulled over at about 10 p.m. Tuesday in the town of Newbury after he was caught on police radar traveling north at high speed in a rented Chevrolet Impala, said Vermont State Police Sgt. Tara Thomas. He's scheduled to appear in court Jan. 21. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of three months in jail and a \$300 fine.

REUTERS

FRIDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
prime	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Wife Swap	Supernanny		20/20 (N)
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Anne of Green Gables: The Continuing Story ** (DVS)				Supernanny		Atlantis
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Air Farce New Year's Eve	Just for Laughs		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)	Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		NUMB3RS
	6	6	6	CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Accidental Friendship (2008, Drama)	Chandra Wilson.		Lilith on Top		News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	Corner Gas	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)	Sticks and Stones (2008, Docudrama)				News (N)
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Foot. Pregame	(9:15) College Football Allstate Sugar Bowl -- Alabama vs. Utah.			
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Deal or No Deal (ITV) (N)	Lipstick Jungle (N)		Dateline NBC
	55	55	55	SCOR	(6) College Football	Autozone Liberty Bowl -- East Carolina vs. Kentucky.			Score Update	WWE SmackDown!		
	53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		Pregame	Junior Hockey	2009 IIHF World Championship Quarterfinal -- Teams TBA.			SportsCentre
cable	16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Rio" (HDTV)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	70	70	70	APTN	News	Vitality	Mixed Blessing	First Nation	Rabbit Fall	The Rez		Red Planet * (2000, Science Fiction)
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Desperate Housewives	Bravo! Fact	Books-Film	East Is East *** (1999, Comedy)		
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Good Morning	Corner Gas	22 Minutes	The Simpsons	South Park
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live	Cooper 360
	38	38	38	DISC	Mayday "Phantom Strike"		Mayday "Falling From the Sky"		Mayday		Mayday	Mayday
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Extreme Home	Extreme Living	Location, Loc.
	46	46	46	HIST	Ultimate Engineering		NCIS "Bloodbath"		Engineering an Empire		Alexander ** (2004, Historical Drama)	Around-World
	17	17	17	MM	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Napoleon Dynamite (2004, Comedy)	
	206	206	206	PIX	(6) Heartbreak Ridge		(8:15) Dirty Harry *** (1971, Crime Drama)				Wonder Boys (2000, Comedy-Drama)	
sports	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Best Years (DVS)		The Guard (HDTV)	Testees	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams
	40	40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted "Sharla"		Crash Test Mommy		In Laws	Newlywed	Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Real Simple. Real Life. (N)		What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear (N)	Miss America
	22	22	22	W	Long-You Live	Long-You Live	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Supersize vs. Superskinny		Cruel Intentions ** (1999, Drama)	
	27	27	27	YTV	The Mighty B!	iCarly	H2O: The Movie (2008, Fantasy)	Cariba Heine, Claire Holt.			Falcon Beach	Dark Oracle

SATURDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
prime	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	Wrld News Sat	Patriots All-Access		Sleepless in Seattle *** (1993, Romance-Comedy) Tom Hanks.			
	7	7	7	ASN	Anne of Green Gables: The Continuing Story ** (DVS)			Searching for American Dream		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Atlantis
	11	11	11	CBC	Sat. Report	Hockey Night	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	CBS News	Entertainment Tonight	Game Show	Game Show	Cold Case "Boy Crazy"		48 Hr. Mystery
	6	6	6	CIHF	Branded: Saving Our Town	Zero Hour			Mob Stories	Go Deep Mississippi River.		News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	NFL Football: NFC Wild-Card -- Falcons at Cardinals				NFL Football AFC Wild-Card -- Indianapolis Colts at San Diego Chargers.			
	36	36	36	FOX	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld		Cops	America's Most Wanted		Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	NFL Football: NFC Wild-Card -- Falcons at Cardinals				NFL Football AFC Wild-Card -- Indianapolis Colts at San Diego Chargers.			
	55	55	55	SCOR	Score Update	Footy Show	BodogFight		Strikeforce	Score on NFL	Footy Show	Score Update
	53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		Pregame	Junior Hockey	2009 IIHF World Championship Semifinal -- Teams TBA.			SportsCentre
cable	16	16	16	A&E	(5:30) Road House		CSI: Miami "Broken"		CSI: Miami "Breathless"	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Sopranos
	70	70	70	APTN	Tribal Treks	Music Speaks	MYTV Hip hop.	The Mix	Rez Bluez "Bluntry & Western"		Bram Stoker's Dracula *** (1992, Horror)	
	37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Live at the Rehearsal Hall		Diana Krall: Union Station	A Bronx Dream (N)		Cameron
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comics!	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	Blue Collar TV	The Simpsons	South Park
	18	18	18	CNN	This Week in Politics		Lou Dobbs This Week (HDTV)		Special Investigations		Larry King Live	D.L. Hughley
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Cash Cab (N)	Destroyed	Mighty Ships "Faust"		Megawheel (N)	Criss Angel
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Top Design		Million Dollar Listing	Extreme-Home
	46	46	46	HIST	Ax Men		NCIS "Under Covers"		Cities of the Underworld		We Were Soldiers *** (2002, War)	
	17	17	17	MM	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Napoleon Dynamite *** (2004, Comedy) Jon Heder.				20 Sexiest Stars '08	Rock Star
	206	206	206	PIX	(5:30) Jerry Maguire		Legend ** (1985, Fantasy) Tom Cruise.		H'wd Splight		Top Gun *** (1986, Adventure)	
sports	39	39	39	SHOW	(5) The Matrix (1999)		About a Girl	Kink in Hair	Loch Ness ** (1996, Adventure) Ted Danson, Ian Holm.			Spider-Man 2
	40	40	40	SLICE	Beautfl People	Mr. Friday	Last 10	10 Pounds	Party Mamas	Party Mamas	Inside Hollywood (DVS)	Housewives
	21	21	21	TLC	My First Home	My First Home	My First Home	My First Home	My First Home	My First Home	My First Home	Real Estate
	22	22	22	W	Body Rev	Anna Kristina	The Shopping Bags		Titanic **** (1997, Drama) Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Billy Zane.			
	27	27	27	YTV	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.	Wolverine	Transformers	Avatar-Last Air	Avatar-Last Air	Avatar-Last Air	Avatar-Last Air

SUNDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
prime	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC News	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home	Desperate Housewives		Brothers
	7	7	7	ASN	Young Blades		Funniest Home Videos		Million Dollar Password	Cold Case "Lotto Fever"		Atlantis
	11	11	11	CBC	Heartland (N) (DVS)		Chronicles of Namia: Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe			Chronicles of Namia		fifth estate
	32	32	32	CBS	Basketball	News (N)	60 Minutes		Million Dollar Password	Cold Case "Lotto Fever"		The Unit
	6	6	6	CIHF	16:9 Picture	King of the Hill	Brothers & Sisters (N)		24: Redemption (2008, Action) Kiefer Sutherland.			News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	NFL Football: NFC Wild-Card -- Eagles at Vikings				The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		Desperate Housewives	News (N)
	36	36	36	FOX	NFL Football: NFC Wild-Card -- Eagles at Vikings				24: Redemption (2008, Action) Kiefer Sutherland.			Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Saturday Night Live Sports Extra (PA) (N)			Superstars of Dance (N)		
	55	55	55	SCOR	(5:30) NFL Blitz		The WWE Experience		BodogFight	Strikeforce		Poker
	53	53	53	TSN	NHL Hockey: Senators at Devils			SportsCentre	Hockey 2009 World Under 17 Challenge Gold Medal. (Live)			
cable	16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami "Broken"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	70	70	70	APTN	Great Towns	MYTV Hip hop.	Rez Bluez "Bluntry & Western"		Music Speaks	The Mix		The Dark Wind ** (1991, Crime Drama)
	37	37	37	BRVO	SABIAN: The Cymbal Makers		Arts & Minds	Bravo! Fact	Promise to the Dead		Ladder 49 ** (2004, Drama), John Travolta	
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comics!	Winnipeg Comedy Festival		Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park
	18	18	18	CNN	Lou Dobbs This Week (HDTV)		Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live	Newsroom
	38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters		Stephen Hawking-Theory		Stephen Hawking-Theory	MythBusters
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Buy Me	Extreme Makeover: Home	Real Renos
	46	46	46	HIST	Battle 360		NCIS "Frame-Up"		Engineering an Empire		Elizabeth *** (1998, Historical Drama)	
	17	17	17	MM	Brooke Knows	Meet Barkers	50 Cent: Money and Power		So You Think You Can Dance			Dance
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:20) Last Man Standing		(8:05) Harry and the Hendersons *** (1987)				The Big Chill (1983, Comedy-Drama)	
sports	39	39	39	SHOW	Spider-Man 2	TBA	The Guard (HDTV)		A Daughter's Conviction (2006, Mystery) Brooke Nevlin.			Ocean's 12
	40	40	40	SLICE	Tori & Dean	Newlywed	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Til Debt-Part	Wedding SOS	End of Leash	Spoiled Rotten
	21	21	21	TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence	48 Hr-Evidence
	22	22	22	W	(5) Titanic **** (1997, Drama) Leonardo DiCaprio.				Judicial Indiscretion (2007, Drama) Anne Archer.			Man in Attic
	27	27	27	YTV	Roll Bounce ** (2005, Comedy-Drama) Bow Wow, Chi McBride.				Prank Patrol		The Next Star	Falcon Beach

Entertainment



Heath Ledger was voted the biggest movie news story of 2008 as well as most missed star and best villain in an AOL poll.

Ledger tops '08 poll

Actor's life and performances honoured by voters

Australian actor Heath Ledger beat all comers in a 2008 movie poll released on Thursday, sweeping the biggest news story, most missed star and best villain categories thanks to his posthumous hit film *The Dark Knight*.

Ledger, whose death at age 28 last January of an accidental prescription drugs overdose shocked the world, was voted the biggest movie news story of 2008 by 83 per cent of votes in the poll by AOL's online movie site Movie-fone.com.

The actor also topped the list of movie stars voters will most miss after their deaths, edging out the late Paul Newman by 56 to 20 per cent of votes.

Ledger has won Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild nominations for his supporting actor role as The Joker in the Batman movie *The Dark Knight*, which was released six months after his death.

The Dark Knight, the biggest-grossing box office movie worldwide of 2008, easily won the best action movie and movie most worth your cash in the

Going forward

• Looking ahead, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, out in July 2009, was the most anticipated movie followed by the latest X-Men instalment X-

Men Origins: Wolverine.
• The poll ran from Dec. 17-29 and attracted 3.5 million votes.

REUTERS

Moviefone poll.

But teen vampire movie *Twilight*, a favorite with young girls around the world, gave Ledger and *The Dark Knight* a run for the money.

Twilight beat *Sex and the City* as the best chick flick of 2008, while actor Robert Pattinson was voted breakout star of the year and Pattinson and his *Twilight* co-star Kristen Stewart won the best on-screen couple with 41 per cent of votes.

Sexiest babe of 2008 and best nude scene went to Angelina Jolie for the action movie *Wanted* and Jolie also topped the poll

as the actress with the best multiple performances of 2008 for *Wanted*, *The Changeling*, and *Kung Fu Panda*.

But Jolie and her partner Brad Pitt came second to Will and Jada Pinkett Smith as the best off-screen couple with 32 per cent and 38 per cent of votes respectively.

The Mike Myers comedy *The Love Guru* was deemed the worst movie of 2008 by 40 per cent of voters, with Paris Hilton's performance in *Repo!* The Genetic Opera heading the list of stars with the worst performances.

REUTERS

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Tip of the Day:
I've always felt it was not up to anyone else to make me give my best.
—Akeem Olajuwon

Pepsi and Beckham decide to part ways

ENDORSEMENT Pepsi said last Wednesday it is ending its endorsement relationship with English soccer star David Beckham after 10 years in a move described as mutual by both sides.

"We wish David well with the many projects he is pursuing and look forward to the possibility of partnering together with him again someday," the soft drink maker said in a statement.

Beckham, who plays for the Major League Soccer team Los Angeles Galaxy and is currently on loan to AC Milan in Italy, said he had nothing but good memories of his years pitching Pepsi.

"I hope everyone who has seen the work Pepsi and I have done together

enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed making it and, who knows, there may yet be another chapter in this long relationship," he said in a statement.

Terms of Beckham's deal were not disclosed, but Britain's Daily Mail newspaper said the contract was worth 2-million pounds (\$3.6 million) a year. Beckham, 33, one of the world's best known soccer stars, touted Pepsi in commercials over the years dressed as a cowboy, a surfer and a gladiator.

While Beckham's signing two years ago raised public awareness of soccer in the United States, his tenure has been marred by injury and poor performance by the Galaxy, and TV ratings for the U.S. sports league remain stagnant.

REUTERS

Entertainment in brief

HOLOCAUST BOOK A second book featuring a Holocaust love story between Florida-based Herman and Roma Rosenblat was cancelled this week after the publisher found out that the couple's amazing tale was not true. Herman Rosenblat, 79, had claimed that he met his now wife in a

Nazi concentration camp and later married her when they met again in New York. But under scrutiny from scholars, Rosenblat admitted this week that he invented the love story, prompting Penguin Book's imprint Berkley Books to cancel publication of his memoir due out in February.

REUTERS

Dion, Madonna take year's top ticket

Madonna and Celine Dion were the biggest worldwide concert draws in 2008, each selling more than \$200 million worth of tickets to their slickly produced shows, trade publication Pollstar said. **REUTERS**

Going Out**Metro's 7th Heaven:** Metro taps what's hot right now**1 Valkyrie**

Valkyrie hasn't flopped. In fact, Tom Cruise's movie is doing better than expected. The Second World War thriller about a plot to assassinate Hitler, earned \$21.5 million over last weekend. It has taken in \$30 million over four days since its Christmas Day release.

2 Christmas with the folks

It seems everyone has been spending time with relatives this holiday season — even the stars. Acting brothers Matt and Kevin Dillon have never missed a Christmas at home with their parents and four other siblings, PageSix.com reports.

3 Nail resolution

Thinking of starting the new year with a promise to yourself? Britney Spears' New Year's resolution is to stop biting her nails and take better care of her hands, but she won't be too hard on herself if she fails, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

4 Tina Fey

Actress Tina Fey was voted as The Associated Press' Entertainer of the Year. AP members chose Fey as the performer who had a greatest impact on culture and entertainment in 2008.

5 Buff President

Barack Obama has created quite a stir after he was photographed shirtless while vacationing in Hawaii. The soon-to-be president is one of the few leaders of the world with a nice physique.

6 Intuition

Jamie Foxx finished 2008 on a high note. His album, Intuition, debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 album chart. It was the week's top debut.

7 Going south

Mexico was the place to be this New Year's: Jennifer Aniston, Courtney Cox Arquette and George Clooney caught some rays, says tmz.com.

Mix of Six**HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY****Plaid Tidings**

Friday - Sunday
Neptune Theatre

The festive show ends this Sunday. Tickets start at \$22 and go up to \$45, depending on where you sit; visit neptunetheatre.com for details.

**Holiday hockey**

Saturday 7 p.m., Sunday 4 p.m.
Metro Centre

Why not ring in the new year with a hockey game? The Moose take on the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles Saturday at the Metro Centre, and they'll play the P.E.I. Rocket on Sunday. Tickets are \$14.50 for adults: ticketatlantic.com.

Calendar Crafts

Saturday, Sunday, 3 p.m.
Museum of Natural History

Anxious to get the kids out of the house? Grab them and your old calendars, and head to Calendar Crafts at the Museum of Natural History. They'll use pictures from calendars to make origami animals. Kids ages eight and up are welcome.

**New Year's levee**

Sunday, 2 p.m.
City Hall

You can still catch a traditional New Year's levee at City Hall. Mayor Peter Kelly and regional councillors will be shaking hands and chatting with revellers in Halifax Hall.

Lunenburg Foundry historical talk

Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

History buffs may want to check out Marike Finlay-de Monchy's illustrated talk about the



Lunenburg Foundry. It's a free lecture at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

Tooth exhibit

Now until Jan. 18
Museum of Natural History

Got a thing for teeth? The Museum of Natural History's Tooth and Nothing But the Tooth exhibit is still on until Jan. 18. There's an activity station, where visitors compare the strengths of different animals' jaws. museum.gov.ns.ca



How Can I Recycle My Old Electronics?

Now that all the gifts have been unwrapped, please remember to recycle your unwanted electronics.

Nova Scotians can recycle unwanted computers, monitors, printers and televisions responsibly by dropping these items off **FREE OF CHARGE** at an Atlantic Canada Electronics Stewardship (ACES) Drop-off Centre.



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Celebrity Buzz

Richie hoping for baby No. 2

FAMILY It's baby time again for Nicole Richie and her rocker boyfriend, Joel Madden, starmagazine.com is reporting.

The Jan. 12 issue of the magazine reports that as their daughter Harlow gets ready to celebrate her first birthday, reformed party girl Nicole is taking vitamins, eating healthy and designing trendy maternity wear in preparation for her second pregnancy.

"Nicole simply told Joel that she wants another baby — right away," a friend confides to Star. "He was a little over-

whelmed at first, but now he's with her 100 per cent. They're both thrilled about adding to their family."

And, after overcoming a rocky period in their relationship, the couple seems to be in a good place to expand their family.

Nicole and Joel went through a "rough patch, but now things are amazing between them," says a source. "Nicole knows it's because they're both so

happy with Harlow, and she truly believes another baby will double their commitment."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Latifah targeted in jewelry theft

PEOPLE Paris Hilton is not the only recent celebrity victim of jewelry theft — this time, thieves have gone after items belonging to Queen Latifah, msn.com reports.

The website says Queen Latifah, whose real name is Dana Owens, had more than \$10,000 worth of jewelry reportedly stolen from her luxury villa in Tobago, an island resort in the Caribbean, according to the local paper, Trinidad and Tobago's Newsday.

Two gold rings, a gold chain and a silver ring were allegedly taken from the singer's \$1,000-a-night villa.

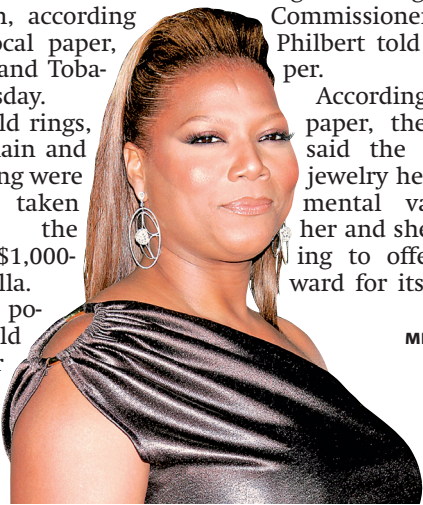
Tobago police told the paper they believe a staff member commit-

ted the theft. Local police have also reportedly questioned several employees of Stone Haven Villas.

"Several searches are being carried out and the police are trying to have the jewelry returned to Queen Latifah. Investigators said the larceny seems to be an inside job and efforts are being made round the clock to make a breakthrough," acting Police Commissioner James Philbert told the paper.

According to the paper, the singer said the missing jewelry held sentimental value to her and she is willing to offer a reward for its return.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lewis favoured for Mariah musical role

PEOPLE Mariah Carey wants Leona Lewis to play her in a musical of her life, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

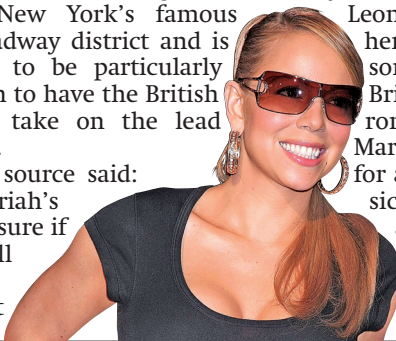
The Touch My Body singer has reportedly agreed to see her story immortalized in a stage show in New York's famous Broadway district and is said to be particularly keen to have the British star take on the lead role.

A source said: "Mariah's not sure if she'll star in it

herself. If she doesn't, names being tossed around include High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens and Desperate Housewives actress Eva Longoria. But Mariah secretly likes the idea of

Leona Lewis playing her." A spokesperson confirmed to Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper: Mariah is in talks for a Broadway musical to be made about her life in 2009.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



DJ AM explains lawsuit

PEOPLE DJ AM wants us to know he's not taking the fatal plane crash he survived personally, people.com reports.

In response to reports about his recently filed negligence lawsuit against those his legal camp feels are liable for the Sept. 19 crash that killed four and left AM and Travis Barker with severe burns, the celebrity spinner has taken issue with the interpretation

that he is suing the families of the deceased pilots.

"Normally I don't feel like I NEED to make a statement like this, but after I read some recently reported untruths I feel like I have to," AM, whose real name is Adam Goldstein, wrote on his MySpace blog. "I want to take a second to address the hurtful posts and clear up any misunderstandings any of you may have about my law suit. I would NEVER sue the deceased pilots' estates or personal holdings."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Criss proposed to Holly: Witness

RELATIONSHIPS Holly Madison and Criss Angel may be walking down the aisle, usmagazine.com reports.

The gossip site quotes an E! report that the couple — who have been dating since Madison's October split from Hugh Hefner — were spotted at Berger & Son Fine Jewelers in Las Vegas on Christmas Eve eyeing rings.

"They were looking at one ring and Criss said, 'Would you marry me?'" a spy told E!. "Holly didn't say anything. She just looked at

him." After a crowd began to form outside the store, the pair prepared to make a hasty exit,

and Angel "hand-ed the

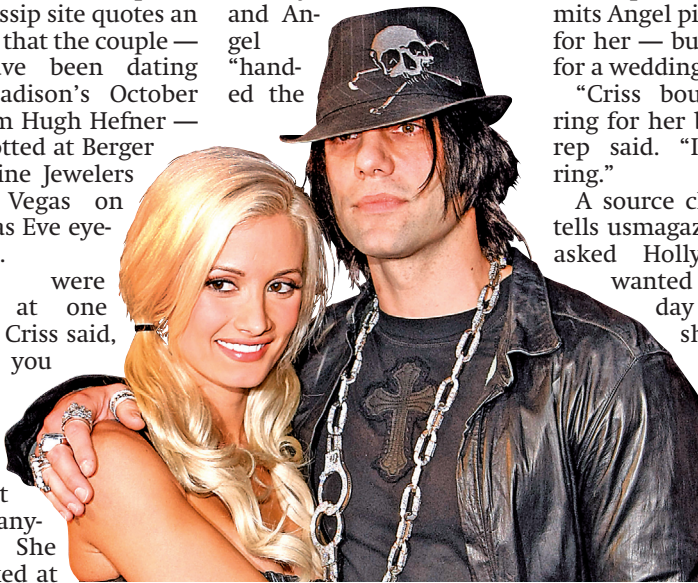
ring back to the sales guy and said, 'Thanks,'" the witness says.

A rep for Madison admits Angel picked up bling for her — but says it's not for a wedding.

"Criss bought Holly a ring for her birthday," the rep said. "It's a flower ring."

A source close to Angel tells usmagazine.com: "He asked Holly what she wanted for her birthday and she said she only wanted a flower so he got her the diamond ring that is shaped like a flower."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Hudson to sing at Obama event?

PERFORMANCE Jennifer Hudson may perform at Barack Obama's Inauguration, usmagazine.com is reporting. The performance would be her first since her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew were brutally murdered in Chicago last October. "Organizers want Jennifer to sing The Star-Spangled Banner at the Inauguration on January 20," a source tells the New York Post, which first reported the news. "She is from Chicago and a huge Obama supporter."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Need a light? Just ask Biel

PEOPLE Jessica Biel carries a cigarette lighter even though she doesn't smoke, femalefirst.co.uk reports. She said: "I'm not a smoker, but I always feel really left out when everybody goes out to smoke, so I join them and light their cigarettes."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Costar praises Black's kissing

PEOPLE Cloris Leachman displays some serious PDA with Jack Black in an upcoming episode of The Office, usmagazine.com reports. "I have an intimate scene with Jack Black," Leachman told Entertainment Tonight. "He has to take me naked out of a bath tub and we kiss a lot," added Leachman, 82. So is Black — 43 years her junior — a good smoocher?

"Yeah!" Leachman said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES





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For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Take Five

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16				17		
		18				19				20		
21	22			23				24				
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44					45				46			
47				48				49			50	51
52				53				54				
55				56				57				

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8			6		9			
9	2						5	1
	5			4		8		
	9		8	3				4
		3				9		
7				6	1		3	
		2		7			8	
1	8						7	3
			3		8			6

Crossword across

- 1 Quantities stolen
6 Boom times
9 Harvest goddess
12 Up to
13 Enthusiast
14 Torched
15 Mrs. Gorbachev
16 Render untraditionally
18 Incision implement
20 Leak slowly
21 Mueller's org.
23 State of India
24 Twangy
25 Lounge about
27 Unfriendly
29 EBBs collectively
- 31 Veer
35 Excuse
37 Stench
38 Story-telling brother
41 Scarlet
43 Wolfed down
44 Carry on
45 Breakfast choice
47 Put on a pedestal
49 Oust
52 Round Table address
53 La —, Bolivia
54 Bakery request
55 Plaything
56 Raw rock
57 Saccharine

Crossword down

- 1 "Ben- —"
2 Literary collection
3 Work with
4 Sax-playing Simpson
5 Word on the street?
6 Open
7 Green shot
8 Pigs' digs
9 Hodgepodes
10 Fast food choice
11 Bessemer product
17 Hammock occupant
19 Raccoon's cousin
21 Winter bug
22 — -relief
24 Without delay
- 26 Canine coat
28 Wickerwork willow
30 Freddy's street
32 Become aware of
33 Examine
34 — out a living
36 Pleasant wind
38 Mill fodder
39 TV's ancestor
40 Scrimshaw material
42 Gary Cooper role
45 Despot
46 Declare
48 Wall St. debut
50 Bee follower
51 Potent stick

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

E	M	S		C	O	I	L		A	R	I	D
Y	A	M		O	N	T	O		N	O	L	O
E	G	O		R	O	O	S		E	V	E	L
R	I	G	I	D					S	K	I	
				N	O	V	A		E	L	B	O
C	O	R	N		B	E	L		S	A	V	E
A	K	A		A	R	B	O	R	B	A	S	
B	R	I	O		T	U	N	A	M	E	L	T
S	A	L	S	A		M	E	T	E			
			P	R	O		A	N	O	D	E	
H	E	A	R	T		F	E	L	T		B	A
R	A	G	E		F	L	E	A		I	T	S
S	T	A	Y		S	K	I	T		T	A	T

8	5	1	9	3	6	4	7	2
9	7	2	4	5	8	3	1	6
4	6	3	1	2	7	9	5	8
6	1	8	5	9	2	7	3	4
5	2	4	3	7	1	6	8	9
7	3	9	8	6	4	5	2	1
1	4	5	7	8	9	2	6	3
3	8	6	2	4	5	1	9	7
2	9	7	6	1	3	8	4	5

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart	
Under 13 min	Genius	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	Scholar	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce

INGREDIENTS — FISH:

- 4 fresh or frozen and thawed salmon or halibut steaks, 3/4 inch (2 cm) thick (about 6 oz/175 g each)
 - 1 cup dry white wine
 - 1 small yellow onion, thickly sliced
 - 2 lemon slices
 - 4 sprigs parsley
 - 4 whole black peppercorns
- #### INGREDIENTS — DILL SAUCE:
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) butter or margarine
 - 1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour
 - 2 tsp (10 ml) finely chopped fresh dill or 3/4 tsp (4 ml) dried dill weed
 - 1/2 tsp (2 ml) sugar
 - 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) salt
 - 1 large egg yolk, lightly beaten
 - 1 teaspoon lemon juice

METHOD:
1. Rinse fish and pat dry. Poach fish: in large skillet, combine wine, onion, lemon slices, parsley and peppercorns. Bring to boil. Arrange salmon in a single layer in wine mixture. Bring to boil. Lower heat

and simmer, covered, for 5 to 8 minutes or until fish flakes when tested with fork. Use slotted spatula to carefully remove salmon from the skillet; keep warm. Strain and reserve 1 cup (250 ml) cooking liquid.
2. For dill sauce: in small saucepan, melt butter over moderate heat. Whisk in flour, dill, sugar and salt, and cook for 1 minute or until bubbly. Add reserved cooking liquid. Cook, whisking constantly, until mixture starts to thicken. Slowly stir about 1/2 cup (125 ml) hot mixture into egg yolk, then return to saucepan. Cook, stirring constantly, for 1 to 2 minutes or until the mixture thickens (do not boil). Stir in lemon juice.
3. Spoon some dill sauce over salmon and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

A larger-than-life mystery deepens. A drama queen is reaching critical mass. An elderly person can move you to tears.



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

Contact with a maniac will revive you. An ambiguous friend realizes his foolishness. A sweetheart wants to give you something special.



LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

Be sincere with someone who is attentive. Ask questions about some entertaining surprises. You are too excitable for your own good.



SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

Be true to yourself. A troubled person creates animosity. Don't disagree with a stranger who makes sense.



GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

Give some thought to being more diligent. Don't refuse an offer that saves money. A daunting person will ask you for something precious.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

Be serious when dealing with an obstinate fool. Answer questions without joking. Be prepared to face a difficulty alone.



CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

Make sure that all loose ends are tied up. Time is wasted in mending someone's misery. Plans are made to clear the air.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

Don't waste a chance to discuss secrets. Someone pulls the rug out from under a worker. Frustration results from sticking to the rules.



LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

Trust a friend to be honest with you. A message comes about an illness. Decisions are influenced by casual comments.



AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

It's a good day to make a special request. Use your common sense with romantic interests. Avoid over-sensitivity at dinner time.



VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

Don't give up on someone who has problems. There's a happy ending for a gullible guy. An important person is willing to work on a new project.



PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

A serious relationship continues after a setback. A man is excused for standing his ground. You'll make time for another project.



WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Do damage to Old MacDonald's spread (1)
2. Coexist in a dragon's den (1)
3. Unfairly distort a puzzle hint (1)
4. Use a loom to make a shirt arm section (1)
5. Athenians' horror movie screams (1)
6. Red Cross founder Clara's kilt patterns (2)
7. Fighting hard to keep three balls in the air (2)

ANSWERS
1. HARM FARM 2. SHARE LAIR 3. SKEW CLOVE 4. WEAVE SLEEVE
5. GREEKS SHRIEKS 6. BARTONS TARTANS 7. STRUGGLING JUGGLING

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word. To win \$10, send your original rhymes with your definitions to this newspaper. All entries become the property of UFS, Inc.

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Thanks and \$10 to Anita Gregory of Pasadena, CA for #6. Send your entry to this newspaper.

This day in history

- JAN. 2, 1860 — The discovery of the planet Vulcan is announced at a meeting of the Académie des Sciences in Paris.
- JAN. 2, 1882 — John D. Rockefeller unites his oil holdings into the Standard Oil trust.
- JAN. 2, 1959 — Luna 1, the first spacecraft to reach the vicinity of the moon and to orbit the sun, is launched by the U.S.S.R.
- JAN. 2, 1993 — Leaders of the three warring factions in Bosnia meet to discuss peace plans.

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